

Journal. 1903.

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Dec.



Concord, Mass.

1903.

Jan'y 3-5

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 the 3rd and spent Sunday (4th) at the farm house, returning
 on the 5th. On the 4th

Wm. Brewster has checked the Bethel and
 Umbagog notes in this vol. for 1903.
 I have copied them into Systematic Notes.
 Walter Deane, Nov. 14, 1907.

On the morning of the 4th, walking to Ball's Hill
 Davis's Hill, returning
 was cloudy but calm
 deep in the woods
 in many places.
 stopped frequently to
 look about and listen we noted, during this walk, only
 three birds, a Chickadee (about in the middle of some pine
 woods), a Crow, and a Partridge. We saw a great
 many tracks of the least-named species in and about
 Birch Field and near Ball's Hill. Two Blue jays were
 seen and one or two Crows heard, close to the farm house,
 in the early morning. The Howe brothers, whom we met
 at Ball's Hill, told us that small birds of every kind
 have been very scarce about their house since early in
 December. They have seen a bury of about ten Quail
 in their corn field on several occasions within the
 past week or two.

Birds seen
 during a
 walk to
 Ball's Hill

While driving to Concord on the morning of the
 5th we saw only one bird, a Flicker on the top
 of Punkleasant Hill. I understand that a single bird
 of this species has passed the months of December &
 January on the Edward W. Emerson place where our
 wintered last year.

Flickers
 wintering at
 Concord.

No regular winter visitors, except Snow Owls, have
 been reported from any part of eastern Massachusetts
 on good authority. The Owls appeared in considerable
 numbers in November & I have heard of a few in December &
 January, also.

No regular
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 seen except
 Owls.

Concord, Mass.

1903.

Jan'y 3-5

Purdie & I went to Concord on the afternoon of the 3rd and spent Sunday (4th) at the farm house, returning to Cambridge on the morning of the 5th. On the 4th we were in the woods all the forenoon, walking to Ball's Hill via Birch Field, Prescott's Pines, and Davis's Hill, returning by road via Bensons. The weather was cloudy but calm and mild. The snow lay six inches deep in the woods but the roads and fields were bare in many places. Although we moved very slowly and stopped frequently to look about and listen we noted, during this walk, only three birds, a Chickadee (about in the middle of some pine woods), a Crow, and a Partridge. We saw a great many tracks of the least-named species in and about Birch Field and near Ball's Hill. Two Bob Jays were seen and one or two Crows heard, close to the farm house, in the early morning. The Howe brothers, whom we met at Ball's Hill, told us that small birds of every kind have been very scarce about their house since early in December. They have seen a bury of about ten Quail in their corn field on several occasions within the past week or two.

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No regular
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Cambridge, Mass.

1903.

January

There were many cloudy days and several very dark & foggy ones during this month. The temperature has been variable to an unusual degree. On the 19th it fell to -2° , on the 20th & 24th to $+5^{\circ}$ which on the 1st, 2nd, 12th, 16th, 17th, 21st, 27th, 28th, 29th & 30th it rose to above 40° the highest point reached being 44° . Two inches of snow fell on the 11th and four inches on the 25th. There have been a number of rain storms, some of them rather heavy ones. A small storm, accompanied by thunder & lightning occurred on the morning of the 30th. There have been a few days when the shipping was fairly good but the streets have been bare most of the time & the lawns & gardens partly so with patches of ice & snow. The grass, wherever exposed, has continued almost as green as in mid-autumn.

The entire winter thus far has been remarkable for the scarcity of birds of every kind. Indeed I cannot remember a season when they have been so very few both in respect to species and individuals. I base this statement largely on reports received from the younger men who have been much aided in Belmont, Arlington, Brookline, Roxbury, Allston (C. S. Bailey) etc. My own experience has been confined chiefly to Cambridge where I have taken daily walks either to Mt. Auburn or in the direction of Harvard Square & the Botanic Garden. During these walks I have rarely seen anything save English Sparrows & an occasional Golden-cust, Brown Creeper, Chickadee or Crow. Our Garden also was nearly barren of native birds until the 6th when we put up two large dumps of bait, one in the elm that shades the driveway, the other in the Catalpa near the museum. This bait has since attracted Chickadees, Nuthatches & Downy Woodpeckers & a few other birds have come with them.

Garden, Cambridge, Mass.

1903.

January.

Birds observed during the month:-

Regulus satrapa. 21' 22' 29'

Parus atricapillus. 1^②_{fruit} 2^②_{fruit} 6' 7' ^③_{fruit} 8' ^①_{fruit} 10^② 12' _{fruit} 13' _{fruit} 14^③ 15^②_{fruit}

16^③ 17^③ 18' _{fruit} 19' _{fruit} 20' _{fruit} 21' _{fruit} 22' _{fruit} 23' _{fruit} 24' _{fruit} 25' _{fruit} 26' _{fruit}

27' 29' _{fruit} 30' ^③

Sitta carolinensis. 13' 14^③ 16^③ 17' 21' 22' 23' 24' 25' 26' 27' 28' 29'

30'

Certhia familiaris americana. 7' ^②_{fruit} 8' 15' 23'

Ampelis cedrorum. 21^② A flock of seven spent the morning and afternoon till 3.20 P.M. when they flew off together a temperature to the northwest. The weather was damp and foggy with of about 45°. They spent their time perched in the apple trees near the avenue and flew down at intervals to the Parkman's apple tree now loaded with fruit which they ate in large numbers.

Corvus americanus. 14' 16' 23' 27' 28'

Cyanocitta cristata. 2' 7' ^②_{fruit} 9' ^②_{fruit} 10' 11' 12' 13' 14' 15' 20' 25' 26'

Dryobates pubescens medianus. 6' 7' _{fruit} 8' _{fruit} 9' ^②_{fruit} 10' ^②_{fruit} 11' _{fruit} 12' _{fruit} 13' _{fruit} 14' _{fruit}

15' _{fruit} 16' 18' 19' ^②_{fruit} 20' 21' _{fruit} 22' _{fruit} 24' 26' _{fruit} 27' _{fruit} 29' ^②_{fruit} 30'

Colaptes auratus luteus. 1' 2' 6' 10' 11' 12' 13' ^②_{fruit} 15' ^②_{fruit} 17' 18'

21' 22' 24' x = Keck-yes.

Larus argentatus. 27'

Garden, Cambridge, Mass.

1903.

February.

Birds observed during the month:-

Regulus satrapa. 4^h 18^h

Parus atricapillus. 2' 3' 4^h 5^h 6^③ 9² 10' 11^h 13¹ 14³ 23' 24' 26² 27¹

27^② 28^②

Sitta carolinensis. 2' 3' 4' 5^h 8^h 17' 25^δ 26' 27'

Corvus americanus. 3^h 7^h 9' 26^h 27'

Cyanocitta cristata. 26^② ⁱⁿ white maple'

Dryobates pubescens medianus. 2' 4' 5^δ 7' 12' 13² 17' 18' 27^δ

Colaptes auratus luteus. 3' 4^δ 5^δ 6' 9' 11' 12' 14^h 23' 25' 26' 27' 28'

Larus argentatus. 28^②

Concord, Mass.

1903

March 13

Clear, calm, very warm (Ther. rose to 65°)

Took Henry Oldys of Washington to Concord by the 2.05 P. M. train. Gilbert going with us. As we crossed the river to Ball's Hill the water there covered the meadows was absolutely without a ripple. Two or three Red-wings were flushed on the bottom banks singing rather lustily. No water-fowl in sight.

The woods about the cabins around Ledges and distant but we found four Chickadees in three behind the Hill & afterwards noted two other pairs. As we were passing Sumner's a Hyla began piping in Davis' Swamp. It was the only one heard to-day.

At the farm two male Bluebirds were working vigorously and Crows were cawing in the distance.

Just after lunch we went to the edge of the swampy thickets across the road from the farm house and listened until it was dark for Woodcock but in vain. Several Song Sparrows were singing at lunch and we heard at least three different Robins calling. One of them also sang a little in low, broken tones. Blackbirds (all Red-wings I thought) were heard calling in the distance and very near to them a Bluebird whistled. It did not seem to me that there were many birds about but singing is a poor time to watch them & only in the season.

The river meadows are flooded, of course, but the water is lower than usual. There is no snow now ice has in a few places in deep hollows in the woods. The frost seems to be nearly or quite gone in the roads & fields.

Covered, Mass.

1903.

March 14

Clear & oppressively warm without a breath of air from
sunrise to sunset. Ther. rose to 70°.

At daybreak a Robin sang freely & well for about half a minute.
I heard no other birds but very numerous were all dead.
On going out at 6.30 I found Oldys in the road listening.
He had heard a 7 other birds the numerous Bluebirds &
Song Sparrows which were still singing.

At 8 A.M. we started for a walk up the road. Bluebirds
& Song Sparrows were singing in every direction. Robins were
very numerous but we heard only their call notes. There
was a few Red-winged Juncos singing. On reaching the
farm where the Englishman, Swift, used to live we found
it alive with birds. Bluebirds & Song Sparrows were heard
above everywhere & there was a good-sized flock of Red-wings
in an apple orchard. A White-bellied Swallow came skimming
low over the road & alighted on the telephone wire, & on
apple tree. There was a steady flock of juncos behind the
house we started a dozen or more juncos and five Fox
Sparrows. Two of the latter gave us repeated bursts of their
glorious music & the juncos were singing freely & enthusiastically
a variety of low, liquid notes among their bills as is
their custom on this season. Further on we found
several Fox Sparrows in an apple tree & heard two of
them sing. There were also five Rusty Black-birds among
them also. All of them uttered the building melody although
one bird was a female. Most of them hopped & hopped
their plumage just as the notes were uttered. One, a
male, also half-opened his wings in the manner
of a Red-winged Black-bird. A small flock of about
Blackbirds, a Goldfinch & a White-throat were also noted here.

Concord, Mass.

1903.

March 14

(No 2)

We started for Concord at 10 a.m. and drove first to Walden Pond which we found to be still covered with ice seen in the cove and along the shores. Thence we went to Staples's Camp on Ticonderoga Bay which was wholly free from ice. Heard Bluebirds & Song Sparrows everywhere seen in the woods which seemed to be tenanted only by Chickadees nearly all of which were whistling phack. At Ticonderoga the water was without a ripple & the reflections were exceptionally perfect. Saw a ♀ Hairy Woodpecker near Staples's Camp.

Returned to the farm to dinner & went again at evening to the older barn on the Swift farm in the hope of hearing a Woodcock but if there was one there he preferred a distant abode. The smaller birds were also silent but a few Robins were calling.

Several Hylas perched for a few minutes upon a fence. & we heard one about 7' way. There was no Robin singing although the birds were about in great numbers. We saw a flock of about twenty go to roost among some young white pines by the roadside.

As we were passing Lawrence's house before sunset a flock of 14 Golden-eye Ducks were seen flying in V. formation through the marsh - came very high in one.

We must have seen & heard during the day more than 50 Bluebirds, fully that number of Song Sparrows and not less than 75 Robins. The Black Birds do not seem to be here in force as yet. Chippingmunks are out & very numerous for this time of the year. *Autopha* *Butterflies* when fluttering about everywhere & I saw one single-wing.

Hylas.
First Woodcock

Unusual numbers
of
Bluebirds, Robins
Song Sparrows -
Chippingmunks

Covead, Mass.

1903.

March 15

Cloudy most of the day with rain, preceding N.E. wind.

Bledge departed for Boston by the morning train. I walked to Ball's Hill with him and spent the remainder of the forenoon rambling about in the neighboring woods. Heard a Cuckoo, Sing a few times. Kinglets were calling in two different places. Chickadees are the only conspicuous woodland birds used. They seem to be unusually numerous although there were apparently almost none in these same woods last January.

Early in the afternoon saw a flock of 5-6 Black Ducks flying over Marsh Field in a southerly direction & heard high 7 of Sparrows in the Green Field. As Elbert & I were waiting at W. Railroad to take the 4.10 P. M. train back to Cambridge a ♂ Marsh Hawk appeared high in air. He kept on over Ball's Hill and I watched him until he was out of sight in the distance. His career was done quickly & I have little doubt that he was migrating.

Small flocks of Crows were passing overhead at intervals all day yesterday and in a field near Flint's Bridge in bands upwards of 60 were feeding about on the ground. They were much less numerous to-day.

7 in all were in bloom in front of the farm house this morning and later I found a number of purple "ladies' delicates" in full flower in the garden.

Belmont, Mass.

1903.

March 20

Clear and uncomfortably warm with light W. wind.
Ther. rose to 76° in the early part of the afternoon.

4. The date of his
first observation
was March 7

Mr. Hoffmann thinks
that it was heard by
this farmer as early as
March 1.

Ralph Hoffmann called yesterday to tell me of a
Carolina Wren which he had found in Belmont (near Payson
Park) and had had under constant observation for about ten
days.* Walter Dean and I went to the place this morning
at 8.30 and at once heard the bird. It sang steadily,
at intervals, during the half-hour that we spent in the
neighborhood. Its notes sounded to me like chicory-chicory-
chicory-chic. While uttering them it threw up its head and
opened its mouth very widely. Its mandible vibrated rapidly
but Walter thought they did not come together until
the voice ceased. Its favorite singing station was in the upper
branches of a large forked willow which grew close to
a shed. It also sang, on one occasion, in a pear tree. We
saw it emerge from an open cellar under the shed and it
flitted close above a neighboring barn. The owner of the place,
a farmer who lives on School Street next the Hethrings (the
the southward), told us that the bird had been there
constantly for about two weeks.* Its loud monotonous
voice (I have never thought very highly of the song of this Wren)
sounded oddly enough amid these surroundings. Mr. Hoffmann
saw a Carolina Wren in Belmont last year (in May) /
near Rock Meadow but it disappeared a few days after
he discovered its presence. This School St. bird had the
upper parts of a rich reddish brown and the white stripe
over the eye very conspicuous. Its under parts were brownish
white save on the breast which was strongly flushed with
reddish. It was very tame showing, indeed, almost no
fear or suspicion when we approached it closely.

Carolina
Wren.

Cambridge, Mass.

1903.

March 20

(No 2)

On returning from Belmont I alighted from the electric at Mt. Auburn gate. As I strolled slowly through the eastern part of the cemetery I heard a Bluebird calling, a Chickadee, a Kinglet, a Crow, two Song Sparrows (in full song), seven or eight Crows, a Flicker, a Downy, and a Sparrow Hawk. The last named bird uttered its prolonged, characteristic cry near our among some large oaks but I did not get a glimpse of it.

Crossing the road to the Joseph Goodridge farm I found the early frost along the brook just below the greenhouse & near the old pigpen alive with Song Sparrows. Most of them were singing freely & I frequently heard them or flocks in quick succession.

The water has been drawn off from the large round pond in the north-east corner of Mt. Auburn and a number of men with several horses & lift carts were removing the soil from the bottom. It is a rich bed of peaty mud at least three or four feet in depth. Some of our earlier maps show that this pond was once three or four feet deep as it is at present and of an elongated as well as very irregular shape.

1903.

March 21

Cloudy with raw N. E. wind and frequent showers of fine rain.

Took 2.05 P. M. train for West Belfast where I crossed the river and walked thence to the farm.

Just as I was launching the boat a flock of 4 Kinglets passed flying down river only a few yards above the water. Heard a number of Red. wings singing in the distance. The only birds noted at Ross Hill were a Robin, a Chickadee and two Song Sparrows. At the farm I found in the orchard just behind the house about a dozen Juncos, four or five Song Sparrows, several Robins and Bluebirds, a pair of Downy Woodpeckers, a Flicker and a White breasted Nuthatch. There was also a Fox Sparrow singing gloriously but I did not see him. The Robin singing on evening was general and beautiful. I think all our local birds of this Spring have already arrived. The Bluebirds seem to be as numerous as they were a week ago. The country is simply flooded with them.

As twilight was falling I went to the Albany Pasture to listen for the Woodcock but I did not hear him. Wood Thrush were croaking and Hylocichla peeping in fair numbers.

R. H. Howe Jr., whom I saw this afternoon, tells me that Samuel Howe Jr. has heard that the Great Horned Owls are breeding in Lawrence's woods again this year and that so far as he knows no one has as yet molested or indeed found their nest. I have seen their pellets on Pine Ridge of late.

1903.

March 22

Cloudy most of the day with showers of fine rain in A.M.
N. E. wind falling calm at evening.

Dr. C. W. Townsend of Boston spent most of the day with me. We devoted the forenoon to the Ball's Hill region and in the afternoon went to the Green Field, Riverside Park and Birch Island. The woods were nearly barren of bird life but we found the fields & springs abun- with Robins, Bluebirds & Sparrows. Phoebe were heard near the West Bedford Station, at Ball's Hill, at Benson, and at the farm, a single one being in full song at each of these locations. The only animal noted was a Grass Finch which we started from the ground in Pine Park. It alighted in an oak & permitted us to approach closely & identify it beyond any question. (We saw its white tail feathers distinctly). If I remember rightly this is the earliest date on which I have ever found the Grass Finch in ~~Western Massachusetts~~.

There was a Fox Sparrow in full song, most of the day, at the farm and I started five others from a flock of woods in Pine Park.

Two Red-throated Hawks, the first I have noted this spring, were seen flying lowly about noon in the woods to the north-west of the farm.

As I was standing near the farm house at evening I heard the whistling of a Woodcock's wings & the next instant the bird passed me and rising abruptly shot over the top of the shed clearing the ridge pole by only a few inches. I heard within the hour bird or another, a little later, feeding in the Blueberry Pasture but it finally ceased without singing. Three Whistlers passed high over the house in the evening twilight.

1903.

March 28

Cloudy with raw N. E. wind. Snow began falling at 5:30 and the ground was white before dark - for the first time this month.

On my way to Concord this afternoon I stopped at Arlington Heights to call on W. P. Hadley. His collection although not large is very interesting. Nearly all his birds are mounted. Among them is an adult Orchard Oriole taken in Arlington and a young Pintail which he shot in Great Meadows in the autumn of 1899. It looks like a ♀ but was not banded. The rarer bird he showed me was a fine, large, richly-colored Myiarchus richardsoni. It was brought to his home in the flesh one evening last January, when he was away by a boy named Crosby for whom he mounted it and who still owns it. Hadley thinks that Crosby got it somewhere in the woods near Ledy Hill. It showed no shot wounds or other signs of injury.

Hadley's eggs are all in sets but without nests. He has a set of 5 eggs of the Golden-winged Warbler which he took in Arlington and two sets of seven eggs each of the Red-bellied Woodpecker that he got at Great Meadows. He found a Black Duck's nest with fourteen eggs a few years ago on a wooded ridge not far from this mansion & he says that a pair of Wood Ducks nested for three successive years in a hollow oak that stood on its northern edge. They were not seen after 1901, probably because the tree blew down the following winter.

I came on to West Bedford by the 5:06 train, crossed the river in the ferry and walked to the farm where I spent the night. Saw two Phobos at the cabin. It was blowing hard & no birds were singing when night closed in.

1903.

March 29

Brilliantly clear. Wind N.W. in A.M., N.E. in P.M.
Ground hard frozen & white with snow on horizon. Ice in Tubs
 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick. Poot in bays slimed over. All snow & frost
gone before night.

I was in the woods & fields practically all day taking bird
walks. Went to the river near Chick Island and to Benson's field
in P.M. Birds silent & apparently dead. Blackbirds sang a
little on horizon and Robins on horizon. Heard only one Song
Sparrow. Saw a Fox Sparrow near the house and heard another
sing over near Benson's. Found a ♂ Pine Warbler on the side
of the road between Benson's and the school house. It was
chirping excitedly in a pine. A few vireos came in flocks
and into the pasture on the opposite side of the road and
joined a pair of Blackbirds hopping about on the ground &
away now and then flying up & alighting on a fence post
or wood stalk.

A Partridge was clucking steadily at 9 A.M. in the woods
near Puffer Rock. It is the first I have heard this Spring.

I heard two or three others during the day.

Listened in vain for the Woodcock at evening. Heard only
a few Hylas - less than half-a-dozen in all.

The grass is green everywhere in the fields & pastures.
The Agrostis are in full bloom in front of the farm house.
The crocuses have all finished blooming there.

Garden, Cambridge, Mass.

1903.

March.

Birds observed during the month:—

Merula migratoria. 12' ^{calling at} _{sunset (W.D.)} 13' 16' 17' 18' 19' ^{2*} _{at car} 20' 21'

23' ^{ad} 24' 25' 26' ^s 27' 30' 31' ¹⁰

Sialia sialis. 12' ^{6.40 A.M.} _(W.D.)

Parus atricapillus. 2' _{sut} 3' ² _{sut} 6' 7' _s 8' 10' _{sut} 11' 12' _{sut} 16' ³

17' _{sut} 18' _{sut} 19' _{sut} 20' 23' _{sut} 26' 31'

Sitta carolinensis. 8' 11' 12'

Sitta canadensis. 12' 17' ⁸ _{sut}

Astragalinus tristis. 26'

Melospiza melodia. 25' ² _{all day} 26' ² _{all day} 27' ² _{at sunset}

Passerella iliaca. 27' 30' ² _{all day} 31' ¹⁰ _{all day}

Quiscalus quiscula aeneus. 12' ¹ _(W.D.) 16' ² 17' ^{ad} 19' ^s 20' 23' 24' ⁴ 25' ⁵

26' ¹⁰ 27' ¹² 30' ²² 31' ³

Corvus americanus. 2' _s 3' 6' _s 12' 17' 19' ² 26'

Cyanocitta cristata. 4' _s 5' _s 6' _s 17' 18' 22' _s 24' _s 25' _s 31' _s

Dryobates pubescens medianus. 2' _{sut} 9' _{sut} 10' _{sut} 11' _{sut} 12' _{sut} 13' _{sut}

16' _{sut} 17' _{sut} 18' _{sut} 19' _{sut} 20' _{sut} 21' _{sut} 23' _{sut} 24' _{sut} 25' _{sut} 26' _{sut} 27' _{sut}

30' _{sut} 31'

Colaptes auratus luteus. 2' _s 4' _s ² _{calling} 5' _s ² _{calling} 6' _s ² _{calling} 7' _s ¹ _(car.) 8' _s 11' _s ¹ _{calling}

16' _s ² _{shouted about 6} ² _(W.D.) ² _{copulating on cherry} ² _{calling} ² _{doubleless} 17' _s 18' _s 19' _s ² _{calling}

20' _s 23' ² _(W.D.) 24' _s 26' ² _(W.D.) ² _{clear X's above at least 12} ² _{X times in apple tree (W.D.)} 27' 30' 31'

Branta canadensis. 24, flock heard, 9.30 A.M., foggy (W.B.).

1903.
April 5

Cloudless with strong N. W. wind. Bitterly cold, the ground frozen hard this morning & icicles hanging from the trees & bushes all day exposed to direct light of the sun. The ice on the tubs in front of the house was $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch thick. Weather Bureau tells me that the thermometer fell to 26° in Cambridge early this morning. Only a very few plants show signs of injury. Hyacinths in full bloom are now apparently in the lower ground.

Spent most of the day in the woods visiting Russell's Pines & Birch Lake in A. M., Davis's Hill & Ball's Hill in P. M. The birds kept close hidden & silent for the most part but Song Sparrows & Meadowlarks sang a little at intervals and I heard them make Pine Warblers in full song in Benson's woods in the forenoon. Saw a single Fox Sparrow in Pine Park late yesterday afternoon and for the first time in the bush by the river near Benson's Landing this afternoon. A Fish Hawk soaring above one the river just above Ball's Hill.

Heard a Cooper's Hawk calling this morning in the woods near Poplar Rock. At once the downy bird flew from the den in front of the house, as we supposed one of the birds, & flew off calling. I hope he is not going to settle on the farm. His flight this morning was somewhat odd. He sailed all the way from the den to the woods without ever flexing his wings moving very slowly just as buoyantly as a bit of twisted straw. His wings looked very short & broad. I mistook him for an Owl until I heard his characteristic cry.

Cornwall, Mass.

1903

April 6

A. M. heavy with light S. E. wind. P. M. cloudy with strong & very chilly S. W. wind. Very cold again last night. Ground as hard as flint this morning & ice on trees $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick.

The only plants affected severely seem to be *Myrica* & *Nettle*. Gooseberry bushes in half leaf, show no signs of injury. All ice & frost disappeared by noon for the forenoon was mild.

Spent most of the day in the garden. Birds singing freely in the early morning. Heard, Bristled Robins, Mockers, Song Sparrows, & Phoebe, a Grass Finch, Field Sparrow & Yellow Palm Warbler. There was a pair of Nuthatches in the old elms, the ♂ calling whet-whet-whet.

I fear the Cooper's Hawk has decided to spend the summer in the Purple Rock woods. I saw & heard him at least a dozen times this forenoon, flying close & forth over the farms usually rather high in air & uttered by uttering his booming hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo on short intervals. Thus far I have seen but one bird, a 's, Pouter up seem to be very scarce. I started only one yesterday - on Bath's Hill. I can find no signs of Deer & my men say there were no tracks in our woods last winter.

1903
April 7

Light but steady rain all day. Warm with S.W. wind.

Robins and Song Sparrows song through the entire forenoon. I also heard a Grass Finch and a Yellow Red-bellied Warbler. A Chippy appeared in the orchard this morning flitting from tree to tree chirping but not singing. It is the first I have seen but Hoffmann noted one in Belmont on March 27 at least.

A Gray Squirrel, a Red Squirrel and a Chipmunk were all busily engaged at one time to winter the grain of a yard square eating Indian corn which Harrison had thrown out in front of the barn for the Peewees. The men say that the Red Squirrels have only just begun to eat it. I never know them to do so before this spring. This particular "Red" had lost half his tail. He scolded his two companions incessantly but neither of them paid any attention to him. The Gray Squirrels have been common almost as soon as they are in Cambridge. Chipmunks are living at both the old & the new house & are as confident & familiar as possible.

Hyenas were in full chorus this evening. I saw no signs of Rabbits in the woods behind the barn & fear that there are no longer any there. Burdick's dog spends most of his time driving them about through the woods between here & Ball's Hill.

1903.
April 8

Cloudy and calm with light but steady rain. Warm.

Spent the forenoon at the farm transplanting trees. It was a great singing morning. Indeed two birds kept it up until nearly noon. Besides Robins, Starlings, Song Sparrows, Chickadees, Flickers & Chrobaks I heard no less than three Grass Finches and four Field Sparrows besides a Pewee and a Yellow Palm Warbler. The Cooper's Hawk cackled almost incessantly during the two hours or more that we spent in the Birch Field. He seems to have a favorite perch in some tree just inside the eastern border of the neighboring pine woods for the sound usually came from the same spot although over the creek crossed to the other side of Birch Field & called him a few times. Gilbert, Hansen & Pat all took his cackle to be the theme of a Flicker. There is certainly some resemblance between the two sounds although the fact has never occurred to me before. The Hawk's cry, however, is louder & much less musical than that of Cooper's. Its opening notes moreover are given slowly & often disjunctly.

Went to Cambridge in P.M. As we were crossing the river there two swallows flew past.

1903.
April 9

A. M. Brilliantly clear with light N. W. wind. Clouds gathered in P. M.

Returned to Concord by the morning train. The forenoon was so delightful that I spent most of it between Ball's Hill and the farm counting about in the woods. There were very many birds and they sang freely. Antelope, Anger wing and Asher Montefiore were flitting about in the Springs.

Blue-crowned and Horned larks in bloom at the cabin & blood root making a great show. The first seems to have done better of any perennials here. A few tulips have fully opened their cups at the farm house.

During my walk I heard three Partridges drumming, one on the stone wall at Ball's Hill, one near the spring, the third at the foot of the Barrett run. A Grass Finch was singing at West Bedford, another in Pine Park, a third in Green Field and a fourth at the farm. I also heard three Field Sparrows & two downy woodpeckers of Pine Mountain.

As I was passing through Black Field the Cooper's Hawk began calling in the same place where I heard him yesterday. Presently his cry was answered by another bird. On going quietly to the spot I saw both birds, a pair. The ♂ seemed to approach nearly within gun-shot. But then I was very shy. Both called out: ca; ca, ca, ca, ca - ha - ha - ha - ha - ha. I also heard one of them utter a chirping kā-e, kā-e, kā-e which is new to me. It had a peculiar whining intonation & was very unlike the call. The ♂ started from the dead lower branches of a large white pine. This is evidently his favorite perch for the ground beneath was dotted with black marks & I saw with little of fur with fresh bloody skin attached of Field mice! I could find no other remains of prey -

1903.

April 9
(Wed.)

Later in the day (about noon) as I was standing in front of the farm house I heard the now familiar cackle of one of those Hawks & looking up saw the bird soaring at an immense height - certainly two or three thousand feet. It moved in circles on its wings like a Buteo but the circles were smaller and the birds motions less graceful & more hurried.

Bluebirds and Phoebe's were building at the farm at about noon both in the same places where they chose last year, the Bluebirds in the box on the back porch attached to the wing of the shed, the Phoebe's under the eaves of the barn.

There was a chattering chorus of Myio voices at evening in the forest below the orchard and I also heard our Garden Lark thrilling.

As I was passing over Pine Ridge this forenoon I heard a flock of Red-wings flying in swarms. They proved to be scattered about among the dense foliage of a bushy pasture white pine. I walked directly under them but they were so perfectly concealed that I did not for a single bird until they flew when I counted twelve, all males. One of them was apart from the rest on the ground in the pasture just over the wall but he was flying as wildly as the others.

1903.

April 10

Partly cloudy with occasional light showers. Wind N. to N.W.
Just pleasantly warm.

Spent most of the day digging pins in Birch Field where, at 2 A.M., I saw a Purple Martin flying about just over the trees within its rich, mellows notes of frequent intervals. This is earlier, I think, than I have ever noted the species before. Another arrival was the Hermit Thrush of which I saw one fleetly about in the briars just after dawn. A little later I heard two birds chucking & giving the whining call.

The Cooper's Hawks were cocking & flying about all day long. They appear to spend the greater part of the day among the pines where I saw them yesterday for their cries come almost invariably from the same place. As I watched them this morning, flying over the tops of the trees, I was impressed by the fact that their flight is in some respects quite unlike that of a vulture. They flap their wings often and more rapidly vibrating than on some much after the manner of the Hawk Hawk. Indeed they frequently reminded me of that species as they skimmed swiftly across the spruces. They suggested mountain rather than the lightness & buoyancy of flight to characteristic of the Sharp-shin. This, however, was merely the impression I received to day. I have frequently of course seen them move through the air peacefully like the smaller species & on the evening of the 5th as I have already noted (in my journal entry for that day) one of this pair (the ♂) sailed on rather flatted dorsal hundred yards as lightly & almost as slowly as a drifting fluff of wither-down. There was a belated James in the garden this morning. It was a dark colored bird no doubt a female.

1903.

April 11

Clear with strong N.W. wind. Cooler than yesterday.

Spent most of day in Birch Field digging small white firs. There seemed to be a good many birds about but they did not sing nearly so freely as they did yesterday. The Bluebirds were an exception to this rule. We heard one on the farm in the early morning and there were two males working in Birch Field through the firs. There was also a Field Sparrow in this "field" and a Grass Finch in Green Field, both in full song. At about 9 A.M. I heard a Yellow Robin Warbler singing and soon afterwards heard the bird among some grey birches. Its song was not unlike that of a Chipping but more rapid and spirited although equally unmusical.

The Cooper's Hawks were comparatively silent to-day but I heard them occasionally and saw them both now and then flying into or from their favorite grove of large white firs. This is evidently merely their resting place at present. When they start on a hunting excursion they fly straight away to a considerable distance usually towards the east. I occasionally see one perched on a tree in the woods just across the field south of the farm house but I do not think that they look for prey much nearer their resting place than that. When they were working in their firs yesterday Partridge were drumming in those directions not far off.

At evening a Crested Dove, the first I have noted this spring, passed low over the cow pasture & then over the elms about the house flying very lightly & making an unusual whistle of wings. This was interrupted, not continuous.

The Hylas were comparatively silent this evening. I have heard no Wood Thrush since March.

Cambridge, Mass.

1903.

April 29

Clear and very warm with S.W. wind. Ther. rose to 52°.

On the evening of March 12th I heard a Robin calling for the first time this spring, in our garden. The gardener, Karl, who knows most of the common birds, reported seeing upwards of fifty Robins in the garden the following evening. They were flying about excitedly, he said, & he thought they were preparing to occupy their old summer roost in the lilacs. Although he is a truthful man I could not, at the time, credit his story. But on several occasions afterwards, during March & early April, I noticed that there were more Robins about the place at evening than during the day and on the evening of April 14th I saw at least a dozen there. They kept flying into & from the lilacs as if they wanted to roost there but were not quite satisfied with the conditions they found. As nearly as I could make out they appeared scattered about in the cedar & spruces just behind the house. The lilacs were at that time bare of foliage.

Spring
Robin roost
in the Garden

Two weeks passed when I was either absent or unable to keep any track of what was going on in the garden. This morning, however, I noticed that the ground under the lilacs was white in several places with the chalk-like droppings of the Robin & when I approached the place this evening I heard a wonderful chorus of Robin voices coming from the garden. It was about 6.45 P.M. & twilight was beginning to deepen. On opening the back door of the house & peeping out I saw Robins desling to & fro among the lilacs just as they did last summer, then

Cambridge, Mass.

1903.

April 29
(no 2)

seemed to be at least 25 or 30 of them but they were so active and erratic in their movements that it was impossible to count them. Certainly a dozen or more were often singing at once and the noise they made was simply deafening, coming as it did from a confined space hemmed in on two sides by the walls of the house which threw back the sound. It was so very loud and confused as to lack all element of harmony. I watched the birds until all had settled on their perches for the night. The lilac leaves are now about $1/2$ grown & cast a good shade although one may easily see the sky through the thickest portions of the clusters. The excitement shows that the birds must have been roosting there for some time - probably a week or more. My interpretation of their behavior previous to my departure for Washington (on April 15) is that they found the place so safe and congenial last year that they were anxious to reoccupy it ~~as soon~~ as the foliage was apparently advanced to shelter them from observation & that they visited it each evening in increasing numbers as the hope that the leaves had expanded during the day.

The following evening (that of April 30th) the number of Robins that came to the roost seemed much increased. Indeed there were, I think, at least fifty of them on this occasion.

Cambridge, Mass.

1903.
April 30

Clear, calm, very warm.

For two mornings past a Solitary Vireo has been singing in the Garden for about an hour after sunrise. Hearing him again this morning I dressed and went out. He was in the top of a tall elm on Sparks Road and soon afterwards he flew into the "fogel." I approached within a few paces & watched him for a long time. At first he sang the usual song with the usual, clear Solitary notes including the characteristic tee-tue. Then he changed to the song of Vireo flavifrons which he reproduced so perfectly that had he not been sitting within two or three yards of me in a good light I should have been absolutely sure that I was listening to a Solitary throated Vireo. After this he changed from one song to the other a number of times but invariably after a brief interval of silence. In other words his song was more composed partly of the notes of Solitaris & partly of those of flavifrons but was either one thing or the other during each song period of a minute or more. Frequently after an interval of silence he resumed the song that he had last given. He passed most that of his own species. Indeed there were not in all more than three or four song periods when he used the notes of V. flavifrons. To fifteen or twenty when he gave the usual Solitary notes. On the evening of the 28th I heard him, as I know now, give the flavifrons song over. At the time I came near concluding that I had heard a Solitary throated Vireo but getting the Solitaris notes distinctly a moment later I decided that I had been mistaken.

Solitary Vireo
in the Garden
sings his
usual song
then
V. flavifrons
also.

Garden, Cambridge, Mass.

1903.

April.

Birds observed in the garden:-

- Merula migratoria. 1" 2* 3⁶ 6⁵ 7⁵ 8³ 10⁴ 13³ 14¹² 24-28^{10 or 12} 29^{25 or 30}
* or one in trees
- Sialia sialis. 24³ 9 A.M. apparently perched in cherry tree. Sang 5 or 6 times (W.B.)
- Parus atricapillus. 1' 2' 7' 8¹_{suit} 10' 14¹_{* phoebe call (W.B.)}
- Vireo solitarius. 28¹ 7 A.M. for 1/2 hr. (W.B.) 29¹ 30¹ early 4th. occasionally imitating V. flavifrons.
Chelidon erythrogaster. 29¹
Astragalinus tristis. 29¹*
- Spizella socialis. 24¹*
- Quiscalus quiscula aeneus. 1⁶ 2⁴ 3⁶ 6⁶ 7⁵ 8' 10⁵ 13³ 29¹²
- Cyanocitta cristata. 30¹*
- Corvus americanus. 1² 6²
- Dryobates pubescens medianus. 1²_{suit} 2' 3' 6²_{suit} 7' 8²_{suit}
- Colaptes auratus luteus. 1⁸ 2' 6² 7² 8¹* 10' 13³ 24¹*
- Larus argentatus. 14¹-
- Dendroica coronata. 30¹*

Cambridge, Mass.

May 1

Clear and cool with strong N. W. wind.

Much of last night was very warm but the weather changed & became much cooler at some time not long before day-break. A small flight of migrants came with the close of the warm wave for I found in the Garden this morning a ♂ Yellow Warbler, ♂ & ♀ Black. and White Ayres, a ♂ Towhee and a Brown Thrasher besides the Solitary Vireo that has been here since the 28th April. I watched and listened for Chipping Sparrows last evening but in vain. It looks now as if the late April & early May migrants are likely to be a little later than usual rather than the reverse. The vegetation made a great advance on April 29th & 30th and is now considerably ahead of that of average seasons. One Elm-brook is in nearly full leaf, the pear trees in full bloom and a few apple blossoms unfolded.

The Solitary Vireo in the Garden was singing both songs again this morning & again both were absolutely typical. During the time I spent watching it it kept to the flourish song for one minute, then changed to the Solitary song which it used for one and one half minutes, next gave the flourish song for half a minute and finally the Solitary song for half a minute. The intervals of silence between these songs were brief - from a few seconds to half a minute - but in every instance they were well - marked.

Solitary Vireo
with two
songs.

1903

May 3

Cloudy with chill N. E. wind

Came to Concord this morning with a party of friends. Crossed the river to Balls Hill where we dined on the cabin. In the afternoon we walked to the farm and back. Saw very few birds & heard still fewer. There were five or six Yellow-rumps, two Yellow Palm Warblers and a Black-throated Green Warbler among some alders near the creek plantation. At least thirty Chipping Sparrows, four or five Barn Swallows and an even Swallow or two were flying just over the tops of the oaks & pines on Balls Hill in the late afternoon. Saw a Fish Hawk about noon flying rather high over the Hill towards the south and a Black Duck passing the lower point in the same direction just before sunset.

Gilbert tells me that the Phoebe nest in the stone house that had four eggs yesterday. There is another nest he says in the wood shed on Pine Point placed against the smooth outside face of a rafters without any support whatever. This nest was empty but finished yesterday. The birds have never nested here before. I suspect that they are the pair that has been accustomed to breed at Benson's. The pair at the Stone Gate house nested a little on their last year's nest which is on a shelf inside the house & then began building outside on one of the projecting shingles just under the roof. They have departed without in these places on their former but have not completed a nest as yet.

Hydrangea is far advanced. Some of the apple trees are in full bloom. R. Hagedorn says blossoms open at Milton on April 30, and most of the hard frosts have had their season.

1903.

May 4

Cloudy with light rain in A. M. Wind N. E. but not strong and soft rather than chilly.

Birds sang almost incessantly through the entire day. The most prominent voices were those of the Robin, Field Sparrows, Grass Finch, Rock & Robin Wren, Pine Warbler & Black-throated Green Warbler. I also heard a Meadow Lark faintly but distinctly in the direction of the spring in Lawrence's front meadow. A Purple Finch sang beautifully near the house in the early morning and a solitary bird was singing all day long in the woods near Poplar Rock. The only animals noted were the Northern Warbler ($1\frac{1}{2}\%$) and Least Flycatcher ($1\frac{1}{4}\%$).

A Downy was at work all the afternoon excavating a nest in a dead branch of an apple tree just behind the house. He has already covered it down one of eight and has thrown the ground beneath with his drops. Although the nest is not over ten feet up the bird walked on incessantly while one of the men was spreading a piece of the garden within a few yards of the foot of the tree.

I saw the male Cooper's Hawk skimming over the orchard this forenoon & later heard either him or his mate cackle over but both birds are comparatively silent now. I think they are resting more when they spend so much of their time last month. Indeed I saw what looked like their nest there yesterday.

About thirty Robins were to be seen this evening in the Ball's Run, some in swarms, others in pairs.

Saw six small bats flying in quick succession from our shed at 7 P. M. There were more there when I last looked on April 11th.

1903

May 5

Cloudy with chill N. to N.E. wind and light rain at evening.

It was too cool and windy to be a favorable day for birds and I heard comparatively few, even in morning and evening, while no arrivals were noted. Field Sparrows and Grass Finches were singing in the early morning. When the rain began Song Sparrows flapped up on every side. I have heard almost none of Catskill warblers. I hear them frequently enough. A Bluebird also sang well in the late afternoon.

There was a White Bellied Nuthatch in one of the large elms in front of the house this afternoon. I think he must be nesting somewhere in this neighborhood for I see or hear him almost daily.

The Downy was at work in his nest in the old apple tree behind the house for about an hour this afternoon. I did not hear him over during the forenoon although I was under a very near the tree most of the time. He made a peculiar low rattled tapping. I have not seen him come to the entrance of the hole although I have noticed it repeatedly.

There were eleven Bats clustered together under the eaves of the shed this morning. Some of them looked very small. On April 27 I saw two large red Bats, of a different species, evidently, flying about & apparently catching insects about noon although the day was cloudless & the sun hot. One of them was on the farm, the other was the Holden place.

1903.

May 6

Cloudy with light N. wind. Rather cool.

Walked to Ball's Hill via Prescott's pines and Davis's Hill in the early morning and to Benham's in the late afternoon. Noted no new birds but the numbers of species of the species which have come within the past week seemed to have been greatly augmented. Thus Oven Birds, Black-throated Green Warblers, and Black & White Choppers appeared to be abundant for the first time. There were a dozen or more Yellow Warblers in the oaks about the cabin and I heard on least two Green Red-bellies (one singing).

A Hermit Thrush was singing near the south end of Green Field in Prescott's pines about 8 a.m. and again from 6 to 7 P.m. I have heard Hermits in song here before but none of them have ever sung like this bird. He made the woods fairly ring and kept it up unceasingly. I could hear him distinctly from the western end of Black Field on the one side and from Davis's Hill on the other. He was a remarkably fine singer. I cannot help hoping that he may have chosen these woods for his summer home but the chances are, of course, that he is merely a belated migrant on his way farther north.

There were two Doves, evidently a pair, at the western extremity of Prescott's pines this morning. They made good several times while the Hermit Thrush was singing just beyond & a Green Field Chantrelle in the field on the left - altogether a notable bird concert.

1903.

May 6

(2)

As I was engaged in planting corn plants in the meadow below the orchard this forenoon I heard one of the Cooper's Hawks cawing in the woods beyond. Presently it appeared - the male bird - at a considerable height above the trees flying in circles with a peculiar loose, butterfly-like beat of the wings, every now and then swooping downward thirty or forty feet & pitching sharply upward again, at each descent uttering its coo-coo-coo-coo-coo. The whole performance was clearly similar to that of a Marsh Hawk & indeed I mistook the bird at first for that species as I did not know that the Cooper's Hawk came in danger in anything of the kind. No doubt it was a "showing off" flight peculiar to the nesting season.

The Phoebe is sitting on her eggs under the eaves of the old barn. As I was passing this morning the ♂ came from the direction of the woods uttering his wre-tie call. On hearing it the ♀ at once left the nest and took a long straight flight off through the orchard passing her mate in her course within a foot or two. I expected to see him turn & follow her but instead he went directly to the nest and after perching directly in front of it for an instant to satisfy himself that everything was safe he took his station on a branch of an elm only a few yards away & toward them alert & still constantly on guard while the ♀ was about getting her breakfast. I was unable to watch him long but I have no doubt that he kept his vigil until his mate returned. I wonder if Audubon notes this habit in his remarkable biography of the Phoebe.

1903.
May 6
(183)

Hitherto I have supposed that Partridge's "bird" only
in autumn, winter and early spring or, to speak in general
terms, only when the trees are bare of leaves. About seven
o'clock this evening, however, I started a bird from the
apple tree directly in front of the barn (the tree where
I have seen Partridge's birding on several occasions during a year
ago last March. This bird flew from a branch directly
over my head & about twenty feet above the ground.
The tree was heavy with blossoms which were all
fully unfolded. If the Partridge was not eating the
blossoms or leaf buds I cannot imagine what it was
doing there. It was long after sunset (about 7 P.M.)
and twilight was fading. Pat tells me that George
Holden found a Partridge's nest containing ~~Winter~~
eggs last Saturday (May 2) somewhere in the
woods near Ball's Hill. Two birds were drumming
the day on the ground.

1903.

May 7

Tomorrow clear & warm with light S.-E. wind. Afternoon cloudy with thunder rolling in the distance & a few drops of rain.

Starting at 8 a.m. I walked to Bollen Hill via Proctor's Pines & Davis Hill returning by way of Bensons. The woods were alive with birds and noted several animals - a Chestnut-sided Warbler singing near the house, a Black-crowned Night Heron in Proctor's Pines, a Yellow Warbler opposite Davis's Hill, a White Vireo at the south end of this hill and a Woodcock passing over the farm house about noon dropping a brief burst of his rattling song as he sped on his way northward.

Animals.

Black-throated Green Warblers, Downy Woodpeckers & Black & White Creepers abundant everywhere in suitable places.

In reading Birch Field I heard the Cooper's Hawk cackling. Entering the pine woods I found Gilbert climbing a big white pine to a nest from which he had seen one of the Hawks fly a few moments before. It was large, symmetrical, conspicuous & about fifty feet from the ground. It proved to contain the full set of five eggs. While Gilbert was in the tree both birds appeared cackling high in air the ♂ following the ♀ so closely that his bill nearly touched the tip of her tail. Thus they swung around and around many times over the same spot, one of them making at times a murmuring whine very like that of a Musk Rat & wholly different from the usual cackle. It seemed to me that the ♂ was trying, with the ♀ as if anxiously, to catch the Hawk's lead with great accuracy.

1903

May 8

Cloudless & hot with light N. E. breeze & intervals of dust column.
Ther. rose to 80° at noon.

Spent entire day out of doors working to Ball's & Davis' hills in a.m. & strolling about Marsh Field in late P.M.
I fully expected to find a number of freshly arrived migrants but the only species noted for the first time was the Yellow-throated Vireo, of which I heard one singing near the house.
There were plenty of House-throated Green Warblers, Blue & White Creepers & Song Birds but they were scattered about everywhere. In no place did I see anything like a flock of migrants collected in one spot. The nearest approach to it being three White-throated Sparrows on Davis' Hill.

Perhaps I should also except the Yellow Jungs for the woods were literally swarming with them both yesterday & to-day & I saw as many as four or five together in several places. They were very noisy & active. I think they must have been migrants just up from the South.

Still another bird probably a flock of arrived migrants & certainly new to my list was the Whippoorwill which sang for a minute or more this evening very near the house.

A Thrasher was singing gloriously early this morning directly in front of the house.

The Phoebe's nest in the barn shed at Morris Hill had another hatched young to-day.

I examined both the stumps near the cabin in which Chickadees raised young successfully last year. But neither is occupied by them this season although both contain worms exactly as they were.

Mosquitoes were troublesome in the woods this evening for the first time this year.

1903.

May 8
(No 2)

As E. H. Forbush & I were passing through the cluster of
cane pines in the woods behind Brewster's house at the
western end of Davis Swamp this forenoon a ♂ Red-shouldered
Hawk circled through the tree tops directly over our camp.
within good gun range. Its boldness suggested that it might
be breeding there & a moment later on this count its nest
about fifty feet above the ground in a large white pine.
It was a rather small but neatly finished nest and
the down clinging to its sides and to the pine boughs just
above it was sufficient evidence to show that it was
occupied by the Hawks this season. although we did
not care to undertake the difficult task of climbing the
tree. I have repeatedly seen the Hawks about the place
& have occasionally heard them screeching from within
the heart of the pines.

Under a small pine on the crest of the neighboring
ridge we found a number of chalk marks and a fresh
or still wet pellet about the size of that commonly voided
by a Song-sparrow. It was composed of four white
beaked birds that of which but embedded in this we
found two sharp slender teeth which are both thought
were those of a skunk.

1903.

May 9

Clear & warm with fresh but only pleasantly cool E. wind.

I cannot understand why this continued warm, fine weather brings so few migrants. The only bird new to my list to-day was the House Wrenbler of which I heard an singing but there was also a considerable flight of *Boobulines* of which I had noted only one individual before.

Gilbert and I visited the Cooper's Hawks' nest this morning and took the lot of five eggs substituting for them an equal number of Hen's eggs. While he was at the nest I heard one of the Hawks calling (his bird was on the nest when we reached it although the eggs were warm) and the next moment the ♂ came gliding through the woods with great swiftness on his wings beating straight for the nest. Just before reaching it he curved his flight and passed a yard or two above Gilbert's feet brushing the trunk of the pine with the tip of one of his wings. He did not see him again nor did we & appear at all. Gilbert says that the nest is mostly lined with scales of pine bark each placed with the inner surface exposed. Visiting Hemlock House this afternoon I found the ground under a large white pine near the wood shed strewed with the feathers of a Carolina Dove and among them the broken, empty shells of two of her eggs. The Doves have been seen there on several occasions lately. The last being May 8th. I attribute the slaughter of this poor bird to one of the Cooper's Hawks but there is, of course, no proof of this. I looked long & carefully for the Dove's nest but could not find it. I should have noted that on May 7th when Gilbert was in the tree examining the Hawks' nest & the pair of birds were circling high in air one of them made a continual whirring sound only when close of all Hemlock Huts.

1903.

May 9

(No 2)

As I was passing through Birch Tied Lake this afternoon I heard the Crow making a prodigious clamor in Lowman's woods. There were also several Jays screaming excitedly and presently a Red-throated Hawk alighted his short wild notes to the gizzard close as he soared on motionless wings just above the tops of the big pines. The uproar kept on increasing for several minutes and I was beginning to think of going to the place to find out what it was all about when the confusion was solved to my perfect satisfaction by a Great Horned Owl. Beginning to hoot. He gave the long hoot that I noted in the same woods last autumn hoo, hoo-hoo-hoo, hoo-hoo-hoo, hoo repeating it several times at short intervals. Looking at my watch I found that it was just half a'clock. The sun was still well above the tops of the pines & shining brightly.

Suddenly it occurred to me that in Florida the hunters say that Owls begin hooting and deer feeding when the moon rises ~~even if this happens in the day~~ after at whatever hour of the day or night this occurs. Turning towards the coast I at once saw the moon nearly full and just emerging above the tops of the pines which cover the ridge in Pusater's woods.

It may have been a pure coincidence, of course, but I have noted the same thing before in Maine. This is the first time I have heard a Great Horned Owl here this spring. I went through Lowman's woods carefully last month looking for Owl signs but could find none. There also I saw some big & rather fresh pellets on Pine Ridge. I am inclined to think that Bebe is more abundant in spring than at any other season except winter.

1903.

May 10

Clear & warm with fresh S.W. wind.

Arrivals: - Cat Bird 18: singing near the farm house at 8 a.m.

Maryland Yellow-throat 26 " in blueberry pasture " " "

King bird (2) at farm, another up the road.

Arrivals

Birds continue to arrive in dribbles, most of them a few days behind their average dates. I added nothing to the above list, noted was the barn just after breakfast, by taking a long walk up the road and back through the woods along the river between 9 and 11 a.m. Gilbert who went to Moose Hill in the early forenoon saw nothing new there although he kept a sharp watch for such species as the Red-start, Water Thrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak etc. In the apple orchards up the road I heard three Yellow Warblers besides a great number of Least & Lutescents & Chipping. Fifteen or more Barn Swallows were flying about the barn where they nest last year. There they went in & out through a broken window. It has since been repaired but the barn door was half open to-day & they were using that.

I found three Phoebe nests in sand banks near the river. Two were together in one bank were both filled to the brim with sand. One looked like a new the other like an old nest. The third was held from eggs. A Jay was searching for it (climbing along the edge of the bank with one of the Phoebes following her & chirping anxiously. All three nests were placed some distance in pockets evidently dug out by the birds in the vertical wall of sand & all were protected above by the overhang of the bank. I found a second Phoebe nest on the farm this morning in the cellar of the new barn. It held 4 eggs. A Phoebe nested there last year but something killed her.

* Examined this nest more closely next day & found that it was the one built last year with the last year's eggs which had disappeared.

1903.

May 11

Clear & hot with light S. W. wind. Ther. rose to 80°

Arrivals: - Baltimore Oriole 1 ♂ in orchard at the farm, 7.30 - 11 a.m.

Great Crested Flycatcher 1 ♂ " " " " " " " "

Redstart. 1 ♂ near the farm house 11 a.m. - 1 P.M.

Rose Br. Grosbeak 1 ♂ " " " " 6 a.m.

Scarlet Tanager 1 ♂ in woods near Palfit Rock

The Great Crested Flycatcher was very noisy & unusually tame. As

I was watching him he flew to the apple tree when the pair
sawed a good last summer and alighted within two feet of
the entrance to the nest remaining there a minute or more.

The Bluebird has young in the box on the shed. I saw the ♂
feeding them this morn. He has not sung at all freely for a week or more.

Visited the Cooper Hawk nest at 8 a.m. taking my 12 g. gun.

The ♂ started from a pine about 30 yds. from the nest and circled around
me flying from tree to tree & repeatedly coming within long gun range but
keeping behind trees & branches whenever he alighted. I tramped mainly
under the nest but nothing showed there. Just after passing it I looked
back & saw the head of the ♀ just showing above the edge. The next
instant she flew & I fired but apparently without injuring her much
although I cut a feather from one of her wings. She went straight
off & then rose to a great height where she sailed about in wide
circles. After taking a long walk (to Davis Hill & Pine Ridge) I
returned. As I neared the nest I saw the ♂ hawk gliding
just above the trees but the ♀ was apparently absent. I searched
highly & waited patiently for more than an hour. During
this time I repeatedly heard one of the Hawks call kek
in the pines behind me but I did not see either of them
again. I have noticed that when flying just at a moderate

1903

May 11
(Wed.)

Slight both of them show, or rather seem to do so / from white rumps. I suppose this effect is produced by the under tail coverts working up on the side of the tail.

I searched the woods near the nest carefully to-day but the only remains of the Hawks victims that I could find were a quantity of feathers from the back of a Pouter eye & wing & tail feathers of a Blue Jay. The ground under some of the trees was thickly covered with the Hawks' droppings, which appeared but there were none of those signs under or near the nest.

The only ~~other~~ birds that I have seen or heard of both in these woods have been on or near the nest - throated Green Herons & Black & White Crows & a Solitary Vireo.

While I was watching the nest this forenoon a pair of Solitary Vireos approached it closely / within a yard or less / & seemed to be conversing it noisily. A Blue Jay flew over it and a Gray Squirrel spent a long time digging out buried nuts or acorns from the leaves at the base of the tree. After he had finished this occupation he ran to a stone wall & flattered himself on the top log there as long time perfectly motionless. I wonder what the Hawks would have done had they been there at the time. I think they have driven all the Pouter eyes out of these woods. Someone tells me that they have taken two small chickens from his yard & eight cotton tarts from those of his Brother Abbott.

1903.

May 12

Clear with light E. wind. Ther. rose to 82°

As I went to Cambridge to-day my observations at Concord were confined to what I saw & heard during my walk to the river in the early morning and on return across the same ground shortly before sunset.

So far as this expedition goes to show there was little if any migration last night. I did not note a single species new to my list nor any increase in the number of individuals of such species as have arrived within the past few days. There seemed to be very few of those later arrivals anywhere & almost none at Balls Blk. Indeed a Wilson's Thrush & a Rose-breasted Grosbeak were the only ones worth mentioning that I found after passing Concord this morning. The Grosbeak was across the river very near the steam boat house. I heard no Orioles nor Tanagers but Gilbert reports one of the former singing near the farm house this afternoon.

At Cambridge I found a Cat Bird & two Redstarts singing in the Garden & I heard a Grosbeak in the Smith place. Walter Deane told me that no Orioles had been reported in Cambridge as yet. They are certainly later but so are all the early song birds. Even the Bobwhites are not here in any numbers as yet.

1903.
May 13

Cloudless with strong S.W. wind. Warmest day thus far. Ther. 84°

The birds continue to come by drifts. The only obviously new ones noted to-day were a Warbling Vireo singing near the house and a Black-throated Green in the white pine woods near Peppert Ranch. Bobolinks seemed to have increased somewhat in numbers. Hearing one sing near the house I looked for him vainly for sometime but finally discovered him perched in company with three companions of the same sex in the top of a large white oak.

I noted during the day only one Cow Bird, Redstart, Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

It is true they were here in force and, by the way, what has become of the Black & Yellow Warblers, Black-throated Blue Warblers, Water Thrushes, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Olive-backed Thrushes, Red-eyed Vireo, Grackles etc., all of which are common? Altogether it has been a singular season and probably the weakest migration I have ever witnessed. Since May came in there has not been a single well-worked flight "rush" of any kind of bird. Indeed it has seemed to me as if only our summer residents had come & they were mostly in their usual numbers. I suppose the continued & unusually uniform close warm days & cool nights must be responsible for this state of affairs. In other words there have been no weather conditions calculated to either accelerate or retard the movements of migrating birds & they have probably come a few at a time any night & passed directly or northward when found further in that direction.

1903.

May 14

Morning clear, calm and warm. Afternoon with strong N. E. wind. Thunder showers passing at evening but giving us only a light drizzle of rain.

Walked to Davis & Ball Hill after breakfast. It was evident that a small flock of birds had come up from the South during the night. Those new to my list were a Black & Yellow Warbler singing in the pines in the opening behind Ball's Hill, an Indigo Bird (♂) seen by Gilbert in the orchard behind the farm house, and a Golden wing Warbler which began singing in the berry pasture across the road about half past ten o'clock. I heard two House Wrens during my walk.

Gilbert found a Cassin's Dove's nest in a white pine in Purcotte's woods near the wood road & not far from the river. The ♀ was sitting & he did not disturb her. The ♂ flew from the tree before yesterday & to-day as he passed. He thinks the nest is in the same tree where Miss Bartlett & I found our winter eggs two or three years ago. The nest is only about 5 ft. above the ground. Can this be a different pair from the one that the Cooper's Hawk killed at Hancock? Should a week ago or has the survivor of that pair attempted another mate & started a second nest?

1903

May 15

Clear & warm with light W. to N. W. wind. Therm. rose to 80°

The heaviest flight of migrants thus far this month reached here this morning. Not that it was in any way remarkable save on comparison with the birdless days that have preceded it. I noted the following species for the first time:

Dendroica striata, 3 singing in clow near house at 8 a.m.
Seiurus noveboracensis. Two at Davis Hill, one in yard long.
Vireo olivaceus. - One singing in orchard at 9 a.m., another at 5 p.m.
Contopus virens. " " on Davis Hill -
Chondestes virginicus. One flying high over field in front of farm house at evening, perhaps.

Arrivals

Brown Thrashers have been nearly silent the past few days but I heard one singing well near Benson's this morning. It imitated the bob-white of a bird perfectly repeating it several times in the course of two or three minutes.

A pair of Towhees have evidently settled to breed in the thickets near the oak grove behind our barn. I saw them together there this morning & have heard the male singing for the past two or four days.

1903
May 16

Clear & cooler with light, rather chilly N. E. & E. winds.

Spent the day in Cambridge & Boston attending to some business matters but as I went and returned via W. Bedford, walking down through the woods in the early morning & back just before sunset, I had a rather good opportunity to ascertain what birds were about. All the migrants here yesterday seemed to have passed on. Indeed I saw nothing whatever which may not be found here through the season.

A pair of Phoebe's reared a brood of young in the stone boot-house across the river from Boals' Farm last year. The nest was built so late in the season that I took it to be a second one. It was placed on a small chest attached to the face of a rafters. Early this spring a pair of Phoebe's, presumably the same birds, remained about this boat house for a week or more. We saw them flying in & out but they did nothing to the last year's nest unless perhaps to throw down part of it which we found on the ground beneath. After awhile they began nests in two places on the outer wall of staves up under the eaves but neither of them were finished. Suspecting that they did not come to repair the old nest & were at a loss to get rid of it I removed it four days ago (on the 12th). As I approached the boat house this morning I saw a Phoebe enter it with a bill-full of mud. I examined the chest & found mud & moss forming a wet lump as big as a Pigeon's egg plastered on it. When I returned this evening there was a nest about $\frac{1}{2}$ finished. The Phoebe has not been seen before near the boat house for three or four

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May 16
(No. 2)

weeks. There is no other convenient support for a nest in the boat house. It seems to me quite evident that they are unwilling to use the old nest & I suspect that this is a trait common to most if not all their kind. If so it is a very curious one for they are among a very few birds known to me which are regularly in the habit of rearing two broods the same season in one nest. I cannot remember an instance however where the same nest has been used a second season. I removed the old nest in the house been at Boar's Hill early this spring & the birds have another on the barn support now. The pair at the farm have had last season & this on a shelf under the eaves of the barn but just before they built there this spring the last year's nest disappeared. I think they must have thrown it down. I have frequently noticed in barn eaves where Phoebe's nest every year several nests in different stages of disintegration as if each had been used only one season & then abandoned.

I have never known the integrities so numerous here before as they have been the past few days. They are literally as bad as in the bromeliad woods about Loch Umbagog.

While in Cambridge today I heard a Black-throated Blue Warbler singing in the Garden. There were also a pair of Goldfinches & a Redstart. I did not see the Cat-bird this time but he was there on the 12th.

1903.

May 17

Clear with light S.W. wind. Warmest day thus far. Th 88°

Spent most of the forenoon in the neighborhood of Boris Hill. There seemed to be only a few migrants about. I noted for the first time a Hummingbird at the farm, a Black-Orbited Cuckoo opposite Boris Hill, a Solitary Sandpiper on Benson's Country, & a Green Heron flying over the woods near Boris Hill. Herbert Holden reported having a Long-billed Marsh Wren near Beaver Dam Rapid. The only northern birds noted besides the Sandpiper were a Black-bell Warbler (Sp.) at the farm, & a Black & Yellow Warbler (Sp.) in white pines near the creek just behind Boris Hill and two Silver Winter Wrenblers on the edge of the lake near the cabin.

Arrivals

As I was talking with Benson in front of his house on 9.25 A.M., the sun shining clear & hot from a cloudless sky, I was surprised to hear a Great Horned Owl hoot twice in the Davis Swamp. Soon afterwards the pair of Red-shouldered Hawks which have a nest there began screaming loudly & incessantly. Next several Crows joined their voices to the general clamor. Then the Owl hooted again six or eight times causing the Hawks & Crows to redouble their cries. When at its height the din was most exciting to listen to. Thinking there must be something wrong at the Hawks' nest I went there but all the birds were beyond in the middle of the swamp. I afterwards learned that Gilbert got away from the Owl from a large pine. Its hoot was regularly hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo-hoo-hoo, hoo given very hurriedly & in soft smooth tones.

Bubo etc.

hoots at

9.30 A.M.

Gilbert stole a Marsh Wren from a finished but empty nest in Birch Field this forenoon.

1903

May 18

Clear with light S. wind. Hottest day thus far. Therm 73°

The only arrival noted to-day was a House Wren which sang a few times about 8 a.m. in an apple tree directly in front of our house; The only northern breeding bird of any kind a Black-bird Warbler singing in the dense tree shade over bit of woods. What does it mean! Has the migration come to an end thus early in the month? It would seem so for surely this class of interesting bird warblers should have been here as a good bird warbler had there been any birds yet to come. The matter seems then more mysterious because of the fact that not all our summer residents have yet appeared. Thus I have yet to note the Yellow-birded Cuckoo and Canadian Warbler while I have seen only one Red Penn and Indigo Bird.

Butcher-birds are not half as numerous as usual & the same may be said of the Orioles & Grosbeaks. Juncos, however, are fully up to their usual abundance. Red-eyed Vireos are positively scarce & I have not seen of the more northern breeding species which occur here regularly during migration either the Black-throated Blue Warbler or Wilson's Black-cop. Altogether it has been a singular season.

Lawrence tells me that the Caspian Hawks are coming off ahead of his children daily. He thinks they have taken over half within the past two weeks. They now come & go from the ten pine woods to the westward of his house when, it seems probable, they have built their second nests.

Concord and Cambridge, Mass.

1903

May 19

Clear & oppressively hot through forenoon. Light thunder
showers at Cambridge in afternoon, a rather heavy one at Concord
wetting the ground to a depth of two or more inches.

Noted only resident summer birds about our farm house
in the early morning and on evening side of town, the Yellow-bellied
Cuckoo, a few orioles,

At Cambridge, where I spent the day, the Garden was
alive with birds several of which were with band migrants.
I noted here the following:-

1. Robin two birds & a nest 3 eggs built in wood bin clinging to wire fence.
 2. Gray-checked (or Dickcissel?) Thrush. One singing softly over dew at first
and then it sang enough for time ^{advised}
 3. Cat-bird. - One silent bird, very tame. Karl says it has been in
the Garden for some time. He has heard no singing.
 4. Yellow Warbler. - 8 in full song.
 5. Black & Yellow Warbler. - 8 singing softly.
 6. Black-throated Warbler. - 8 " just across street in Middlebury Park.
 7. Water Thrush. - Two, one in full captious song.
 8. Redstart. - Two make singing.
 9. Red-eyed Vireo. - One make singing.
 10. Yellow-throated " " " "
 11. Red-winged Blackbird. - 8 flying low over garden cocking
 12. Buttonwood Oriole. - Two make singing.
 13. Browned Grackle. - Three 88 at pond.
 14. Green-bellied Cuckoo. - One giving the long series of low
notes & also going
 15. Chipping Swift. - One flying over the Garden.
- House Sparrows scarce. There were at us this
morning than one or two cocking. They seem to
be scarce everywhere in Cambridge this Spring.

Cambridge, Mass.

1903.

May 19

(no 2)

As I was walking down lower Sparks Street I heard
somewhere in Hubbard Park & repeated several times the
wild, ringing notes of a Solitary Vireo. After a short
interval of silence the song of a Yellow-throated Vireo came
from apparently the same spot. I have little or no
doubt that the bird was the Solitary Vireo which was
in and about our garden in April singing, alternately,
the songs of its own & the Yellow-throated species.

Richard Briston whom I once told me that a Solitary Vireo
had been seen several times lately in Hubbard Park. I
wonder if it is possible that he is breeding there.

C. tells me that the Robin nest in the Garden has
been growing rapidly of late. She counted ninety one
birds coming in on the evening of May 17th and thinks
there are considerably over one hundred in all. They
"made a perfect babel of noise", she says, numbers of
them singing at once. The poor Cat-bird seems greatly
annoyed at their presence spending most of her time
in the back part of the garden. Last year she
nested twice in the thicket where the Robins afterwards
nested & are roosting this spring.

1903.

May 20

Clear with light S.W. wind. Oppressively hot; therm. 90°

There were numbers of birds singing close about the house this morning and through the forenoon despite the oppressive heat. Among them I noted a Lincoln's Finch, Black-poll Warbler, Black-brown Warbler & Black & Yellow Warbler. Later I heard a Canadian Warbler in the Poplar Rock woods & saw a Gray-cheked Thrush on Bond's Hill. The Lincoln's Finch, Canadian Warbler & Gray-cheked Thrush were all new to my list of this season. Arrivals.

The Lincoln's Finch spent the entire day near the house being seen repeatedly in the vicinity of the kitchen by the wall and when driven from this fledging along the brush-grown woods along the neighboring roadside. Once we started it from the grass under the big elm. It sang freely in the early morning and occasionally up to nine or ten o'clock using invariably the same song. This was so very close to that of a House Wren that it might easily have been mistaken for it but it was less loud and more broken including some short, piping, trilling notes of a peculiarly delicate quality which are not included among those given by the Wren. The bird like most of its kind was timid & retiring dropping from cover to cover when closely followed.

Forbes & I visited the Dove's nest found by Gilbert the other day. It is built against the main trunk of a dense young white pine about 6 ft above the ground. The old Dove was sitting on the edge of the nest which contained two young almost fully grown and feathered

1903

May 20
(1902/)

but with some of the notes down still clinging to their plumage. They sat side by side facing in the same direction with their heads raised & absolutely immovable. Surprisingly pretty, gentle-looking birds they were. The mother floated off & disappeared among the pines when we got within about 12 ft. of her.

On the following day (21st) Walter Taxon & I visited the nest about noon. The thermometer stood at nearly or quite 90° and the air was oppressively sultry. Yet the old dove was actually brooding her young. Of this there can be no doubt for we got within 15 feet of the nest and looked at the bird for sometime through our glasses. She did not seem to be raised above the usual level of a sitting bird although she covered the young so completely that we could not see a portion of either of them. One would think she must have suffocated them. Finally she flattened down to the ground and shook herself off through the grass & small brush, beating her wings as if wounded. The young became conspicuous enough the moment they were left exposed for they were practically full grown and sat side by side with their heads well raised. Indeed the effect was that of two full-sized & fully feathered doves suddenly taking the place of one that had just departed. A moment later one of them flew straight through the dense pine branches out of sight, its wings whistling audibly. The other young bird remained in the nest but it was gone this next morning. On the 26th & again on the 27th Gilbert started these young from the ground nearly under the nest & on the latter date I heard the old male coming not far from the nest.

1903.

May 27

Morning clear; afternoon cloudy. Strong W. wind.

I left Concord on the morning of the 22nd & returned on the evening of the 25th. The weather was very cool with frosts on the low lands. The thermometer fell to 38° at the cabin on the night of the 25th.

On the 26 I heard a ♂ Black throated & saw a silent Water Thrush. I had the same experience the following day when Frobosh heard a Black & Yellow Warbler. There are all the warbler found migratory which have been noted since my return.

I was awake very early this morning. The first bird that sang was a Cat bird, who began before there were any signs of day break even in the east. A Robin jumped a few minutes later. It was several minutes after this before I heard the Robins, Vireos, Song Sparrows or Red-wings. The chorus of Robins surprised me. Judging by their voices I should have said there was a chorus or more singing at once. Yet only two birds, to my knowledge, are nesting on Ball's Hill: Both nests were built on the greater logs of our camp, one on the horse shed, the other close to the small west window of the old cabin. The bird has apparently deserted the former nest which contains four eggs. She was last seen brooding them on the 25th. The horse was tied near the nest on the afternoon of that day & this probably frightened the bird away.

The young in the other nest hatched on the 22nd, I looked at them yesterday (26th) when they appeared to be nearly grown - Chest brown & were already half covered with fine feathers, the day - except this morning.

1903.

May 27
(no 2)

both heard and saw a Red Squirrel on the roof. He stayed
then a long time & made a great noise whenever he jumped
on the tin ceiling. Still earlier & sometime before day break
I heard what I took to be a Rat gnawing at intervals.
At breakfast time I looked in the Robin's nest & found
all four of the young dead and still bleeding profusely from
numerous fresh wounds. These were of a singular character.
None of the flesh had been removed, there was no deep
cuts nor holes and the heads, eyes etc were intact but
the skin over the greater part of each naked little body
had been stripped off. Apparently the poor little things
had died to death from these surface injuries. Whether
this wanton cruelty had been committed by the creature
I heard gnawing or by the Red Squirrel I am of course
unable to say. The most mysterious part of the whole
affair is that the wretched Robin made no outcry. Had
she done so I would have heard her for the nest was
only a few feet from my open window & I slept
peacefully during the night & was under another open daybreak.

Forbes found a Hairy Woodpecker's nest with young on the 25th.
It is in the very best place where I should have looked for
one - at the edge of Benson's corn pasture on the east border
of the maple grove behind the wood shed at Pine Park.
The tree stands a little outside the edge of the grove
on low ground. It is a red maple completely covered
with foliage but rather leafless-looking. The hole, a
small neat one, entered the main trunk on the north
side about 8 feet above the ground & just below a
short dead branch. I saw one of the birds go to the
nest twice on the evening of the 25th. She came flying

1903.

May 2.
(No 3)

across the open fields from the coast showing a loud chirp at short intervals. Although I was 20 yds. from the tree I could hear these young clucking as they fed them. Forebush & I visited the nest this evening after sunset. He did not see either of the parents but the young were clucking continuously and at least one of them was pecking at the inside walls of the nest where the birds were making a loud peevish like that of an old woodpecker excavating. When we poked on the trunk the pecking ceased but the clucking did not subside. I saw a Hairy Woodpecker, which I have little doubt was one of this pair, near the farm-house this afternoon. Hairy Woodpeckers are very common. They cover their the ground in their daily wanderings that the Indians do. I have never known them to build two successive years in the same tree or even in the same kind of woods in this locality at least.

A Chiffy at the farm has a nest in a little white pine that I set out two years ago near the house. The tree is some four feet high & the nest was over two feet above the ground. I looked into it to-day & found that it contained young fully feathered & nearly large enough to fly. It is a pity that none of the cots that were about the place ought have saved it.

The young Phoebe in the nest under the eave of the barn at the farm are also nearly ready to fly. Those in the barn shed at North Hill have already gone & this mother is at work repairing the nest for her second brood.

1903.

May 29

Clear with fresh W. wind. Ther. rose to 82°.

As I was standing in front of the farm house at half-past eight this morning I heard the well known notes (the "three deer" call) of an Olive-sided Flycatcher repeated three or four times in quick succession. The sound only just reached my ears & seemed to come from the direction of the cluster of red pines near Mrs. Ritchie's place. I went there at once & finding nothing was returning along the road when I suddenly saw the Flycatcher sitting perched on the extremity of a dead branch of a wild apple tree in the lower blundering pasture & within twenty yards of the road. I watched him for several minutes but he would not call again. When I looked away for an instant he disappeared & I neither saw nor heard him again. The last Olive-sided Flycatcher I found in Concord was at Ball's Hill fifteen or eighteen years ago & in August if I remember rightly.

Just before I heard the Flycatcher I saw a Sparrow Hawk flying low & very swiftly past the house in the direction of Birch Field. It was a small bird probably a male although I did not notice one of the tail markings which is supposed being a small Hawk which he thought belonged to this species passing over the orchard about a week ago.

Fireflies were twinkling in the meadow opposite the house by scores this evening. Black crickets began chirping nearly two weeks ago & now the fields are alive with them. The first ripe Strawberry was found in our garden to-day. All these phenomena are unprecedentedly early, I believe.

1903.

May 30

A. M. cloudy with a fine, drizzling rain. P. M. brilliantly clear with light W. wind.

Spent the entire forenoon near the farm house. Birds of all kinds sang freely almost until noon. There are a few northern migrants still lingering for I heard two Black-bills in the orchard. There was also an Alder Flycatcher in the thickets along the brook that flows through our berry pasture across the road. I heard his emphatic gee-witchy a dozen times or more about 9 A.M. The Great Crested Flycatchers were exceedingly noisy to-day. They appear to roost about on a wide tree-trunk for I often hear them in Birch Field and sometimes in Prescott's pine woods.

A Wood Thrush sang all the morning in the Bartlett Elm & I heard the same or another bird in the woods beyond the berry pasture yesterday & this morning.

As I was passing through Birch Field just after sunset I heard one of the Great Horned Owls hooting in Burrows' woods. His notes were regularly hoo, hoo-hoo-hoo, hoo-hoo-hoo, hoo, given very loudly. I am afraid that his mate has been killed for I have heard only one bird this spring & always gives this somewhat peculiar hoat.

The Brown Thrasher have been very silent for a week or more but I heard one near the house this morning, two up the road in the afternoon & two more at evening at the eastern end of Birch Field a place where I go nearly every day but where I have not noted a Thrasher for fully two weeks. All the birds heard to-day were singing freely.

1903.
May 31

Brilliantly clear with light easterly winds. Other. Ther. 42°-59°

As I was taking a walk up the road just after breakfast this morning my attention was suddenly arrested by the voice of a Yellow-breasted Chat, only the second that I have ever heard in Concord, the first being noted some years ago in the brick thicket opposite Davis Hill. The bird met with this morning was in full continuous song during the fifteen or twenty minutes that I remained within hearing distance. It appeared to be in a bushy white oak that stood on the edge of some bottom swampy woods of low growth with an extensive tract of blueberry & other low bushes extending over from the woods into a field - that is just behind Everett Mason's house. The locality is about a quarter of a mile to the northward of our farm.

It was a great day for night-hawks. I found one sitting on the top of a storm cross by the roadside this morning, another was perched on one of the tall elms behind the house in the early afternoon calling hoag hoag now & then without moving from its resting place. (There was one in the barn the all day yesterday), and at evening I counted no less than fifteen in light all over scattered over the vine windows between Davis Hill & Bird Island, hunting for moths. I do not remember ever noting so many at one time before in spring.

Bluebirds appear to overflowed into the woods & towns this year. A pair have been seen almost daily for weeks in the oak woods on Davis Hill & another in them at Holden's Hill. I think there can be little doubt that they are

1903.

May 31

(M2/)

breeding in both places. T'axan tells me that they
have nested in the very middle of Lexington & I have
found them up to now in or near our garden in
Cambridge. Their numbers in the country districts
for I suppose anything that either T'axan or I have
ever witnessed before. I am inclined to think that
there are more as many as there were before they
were decimated by the fume in 1894-95.

My neighbor Edwin however sprayed his orchard
apple orchards thoroughly with Paris green when the
trees were in bloom two weeks or more ago. I
cannot see that it has made any difference in
the numbers of any of the common orchard hawking
birds. Certainly they are as numerous on his farm
as on ours at the present time. The Yellow Warblers
& Yellow. Chats have been diminished perceptibly
within the past fortnight but that may be due to
the passing on of vigorous birds further north.

One of my own friends up a Yellowthroat bird
dead on Davis Hill this morning but no one,
so far as I am aware, has been spraying
near there.

Birds & Robins are comparatively scarce this
year. I think the former have fallen off fully 50%
since last season & the latter even more.

Norway!

List of Birds noted at Bethel, Maine.

1903

Time

- Sialia sialis 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th ^{Beckley Norway}
- Murela migratoria 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th ^{Beckley Norway}
- Turdus pallasi 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th ^{Beckley Norway}
- " fuscescens 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th ^{Beckley Norway}
- Caloscoptes carolinensis 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th ^{Beckley Norway}
- Troglodytes hyemalis 3rd ^{Beckley Norway}
- Parus atricapillus 4th ^{Beckley Norway}
- Minutilla varia 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th ^{Beckley Norway}
- Corapipithecus a. usma 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th ^{Beckley Norway}
- Helminthophila ruficapilla 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th ^{Beckley Norway}
- Dendroica coronata 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th ^{Beckley Norway}
- " viridis 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th ^{Beckley Norway}
- " caerulea 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th ^{Beckley Norway}
- " blackburniana 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th ^{Beckley Norway}
- " cisterna 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th ^{Beckley Norway}
- " maculosa 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th ^{Beckley Norway}
- " striata 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th ^{Beckley Norway}
- " pennsylvanica 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th ^{Beckley Norway}
- Geothlypis trichas 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th ^{Beckley Norway}
- Spinus aureicapillus 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th ^{Beckley Norway}

1903

June

- ✓ Sylvia canadensis 28.5' ^{Paradise, Norway} 3' 6' 9' 2 ^{also taken} ^{groups}
- ✓ " pusilla ^{from this road -} 4' ^{infection in} ^{also brought by} ^{brood}
- ✓ Setophaga ruticilla ^{from this 28.5'} 4' ^{3 months} ^{2nd species} 5' 3' ^{7' 2'} ^{9' 10'} ^{from this} ^{Norway}
- ✓ Vireo olivaceus 45' 5' 6' 7' 8' 9' ^{from this} ^{Norway}
- " gelatus ^{Village close} 4' ^{Village} 5' 2' ^{Paradise} 6' ^{Village} 8' ^{Village} 9' ^{from} ^{10' 2'} ^{from this} ^{Norway}
- ✓ Ampelis cedrorum 4' 5' 6' 9' ^{10' 2'} ^{from this} ^{Norway}
- ✓ Progne subis 28.5' ^{Village} 4' 5' 6' 8' 9' 10' ^{from this} ^{Norway}
- ✓ Tachycineta bicolor 28.5' ^{Village} 4' 5' 9' 6' ^{from this} ^{Norway}
- ✓ Hirundo horreorum 28.5' ^{Village} 3' 9' 5' 6'
- ✓ Colaptes auratus 28.5' ^{Village} 4' 5' 6' 8' 10' ^{from this} ^{Norway}
- ✓ Carduelis horreorum ^{Village} 4' 5' 6' 7' 8' 9' 10' ^{from this} ^{Norway}
- ✓ Sporus hirsutus 3' 4' 5' 6' 7' 8' 9' 10' ^{from this} ^{Norway}
- ✓ Poecetes gramineus 5' 6' 7' 8' 9' 10' ^{from this} ^{Norway}
- ✓ Spizella breweri 3' 4' 5' 6' 7' 8' 9' 10' ^{from this} ^{Norway}
- ✓ Junco hyemalis 4' 5' 6' 7' 8' 9' 10' ^{from this} ^{Norway}
- ✓ Zonotrichia albicollis 4' 5' 6' 7' 8' 9' 10' ^{from this} ^{Norway}
- ✓ Melospiza melodia 3' 4' 5' 6' 7' 8' 9' 10' ^{from this} ^{Norway}

1903

June

- Cyanospiza cyanea* ^{from this} ^{juvenile} ^{Parade} 4² 6² 1²
- Dolichonyx oryzivorus* ^{D. G.} ^{juvenile} ^{D. G.} ^{juv. Parade} ^{juv. D. G.} 3² 4² 5² 6² 7² 8² 9²
- Cornus americana* 4③ 5² 6² 7² 9² ^{juvenile}
- Gymnitta cristata* ^{from this} ^{juvenile} 4¹ 9²
- Tyrannus tyrannus* ^{D. G.} ^{juvenile} 4¹ 5² 6² 7³ 9⁴ 10²
- Myiarchus cinerascens* ^{from this} ^{D. G.} ^{Parade} ^{juvenile} 4² 6² 7² 9² ^{juvenile of Ball} ^{juvenile}
- Sayornis phoebe* ^{D. G.} ^{juvenile} 3² 4² 5² 9²
- Contopus borealis* ^{juvenile} 4²
- Contopus virens* ^{from this} ^{juvenile} ^{juvenile} ^{juvenile} ^{juvenile} 4² 5² 8² 9² 10²
- Euphonia minima* ^{juvenile} ^{juvenile} ^{juvenile} 3² 4² 5² 6² 8² 9²
- " flaviventris* ^{juvenile} ^{juvenile} ^{juvenile} 5² 6² 7² 8² 9²
- " t. alba* ^{juvenile} ^{juvenile} ^{juvenile} 4² 6² 7² 8² 9²
- Chaetura pelagica* ^{juvenile} ^{juvenile} ^{juvenile} 3² 4² 5² 6² 8² 9² ^{juvenile} ^{juvenile}
- Arremonops baileyi* ^{D. G.} ^{D. G.} ^{D. G.} 3² 5² 6² 7²
- Chordeiles virginianus* ^{D. G.} ^{D. G.} 4² 5² 6²
- Colaptes auratus* 4¹ 5² 9²
- Dryobates p. marianus* ^{juvenile} 5² 6² 7²
- Pinus strobus* ^{juvenile} ^{juvenile} 4² 5² 6² 7² 8² 9²
- Parus u. togata* ^{D. G.} ^{D. G.} ^{D. G.} 3² 4² 5² 6² 7² 8² 9²

Bethel, Maine.

1903

June

- ✓ *Icterus galbula* ^{immature} 3 $\frac{2}{8}$ 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ ^{Dr. G. Valley} 6 $\frac{8}{8}$ 8 $\frac{3}{8}$ ^{Valley} 10 $\frac{8}{8}$ ♀ empty nest
nest in den
- ✓ *Agelaius phoeniceus* ^{Miss Pond} 4 $\frac{2}{8}$ $\frac{2}{8}$ ^{newly} 9 $\frac{1}{8}$ head of brood
Peninsula
- ✓ *Muscabius aeneus* ^{immature} 5 $\frac{2}{8}$ 8 $\frac{2}{8}$ ^{newly} 9 $\frac{1}{8}$ head of brood
Peninsula
- ✓ *Sturnis l. migrans* 5 $\frac{2}{8}$ ^{on bird with fresh killed} ^{Dr. G. Valley} 8 $\frac{1}{8}$ ^{8 ♀ ad 1 juv on} ^{8 ♀ ad 1 juv on} ^{10 ♀ feeding young}
^{8 ♀ ad 1 juv on} ^{8 ♀ ad 1 juv on} ^{10 ♀ feeding young}
- ✓ *Actitis macularia* ^{Walden/Rein} 4' 5' ^{Dr. G.} 6' ^{calling} 8' ^{at en.} 9' ^{newly}
- ✓ *Sitta canadensis* ^{Century} 4' ^{Dr. G.} 6' ^{1st}
- ✓ *Loxia c. minor* ^{Two between} 5' ^{large flock} ^{Parade} 10' ^{Dr. G.} 11' ^{in feeding den}
^{head} ^{by 2 birds} ^{on lawn}
- ✓ *Syrnium nebulosum* ^{Dr. G.} 5' ^{have taken only newly} ^{Dr. G.} 10' ^{over at} ^{10' P.M.}
^{1/2 P.M. (unhatched)} ^{in water below brood.}
- ✓ *Sphyrapicus varius* ^{Lower City} 5'
- ✓ *Regulus satrapa* ^{Post box. in} 6' ^{black sparrow}
- ✓ *Junco hyemalis* ^{Dr. G.} 6' ^{at en.} ^{Parade Hill} 7' ^{spare}
- ✓ *Polioptila caerulea* ^{Intersect near} 6' ^{head brood.}
- ✓ *Spizella pusilla* ^{Parade Hill} 7' $\frac{1}{8}$
- ✓ *Petrochelidon lunifrons* ^{Parade Hill} 7' ^{newly} 9' ^{head of brood}
^{Peninsula}
- ✓ *Cophoceros pileatus* ^{Intersect} 6' ^{head in big}
^{black brood.}

Bethel, Maine.

1903.

June

- ✓ Harporhynchus rufus ^{Norway} 9¹/₂
- ✓ Habia ludoviciana ^{Norway} 9¹/₂ ^{belonging to} ^{clinging to} ^{of} ^{balls}
- ✓ Vireo solitarius ^{Norway} 9¹/₂ ^{white pine woods} ^{near village.}
- ✓ Urinator imber 9 (2 ad) ^{lake Pinnisvass} ^{Norway}
- ✓ Haliaeetus leucophthalmus ^{Norway} 9 ♀ ad ^{very fine bird eating fish on} ^{rock, lake Pinnisvass}
- ✓ Buteo latissimus ^{Norway} 9 ♂ ad
- ✓ Dendroica vigorsii ^{Norway} 9²/₃
- ✓ Piranga erythromelas ^{Norway} 9¹/₂
- ✓ Spinus noveboracensis ^{Norway} 9 4 ♂♂ ^{of} ^{balls} ^{1 ♀ Pinnisvass}
- ✓ Anas obscura ^{Norway} 1 ♂ ad ^{fly in at lake} ^{lake Pinnisvass}
- ✓ Trochilus colubris ^{Dr. G.} 10²/₃
- ✓ Spinus pinus ^{Norway} 11²/₃
- ✓ Sitta carolinensis 10¹/₂ ♂ ad

Bethel, Maine

1903

June 4

Cloudless but dusky smoky from forest fires. Light N.W. wind.

I came to Bethel on the 2nd to spend about a week at Dr. Gehring's. Took a long walk this morning along the Grove Hill road. Heard a few Orioles, a Warbling Vireo, numerous Great Flycatchers, Chipping's & Robins in the village. At the foot of Grove Hill just beyond the mill a Great-crested Flycatcher was calling in a bushy position. Further on Chestnut Red-bellied Warblers, Nashville Warblers & Maryland Yellow-throats were singing in the thickets along the roadside. On the steep western slope of the hill, also by the roadside, I heard two Juncos & a Parula Bird.

Crested
Flycatcher

On reaching the intervals beyond I found Alder Flycatchers in great numbers in the thickets bordering the Higgish meadow brook. I could hear them for & was in every direction.

Alder
Flycatcher

I noted the following calls: - tree-gee or gee-gee both syllables strongly & about equally accented; geee, an abbreviation, apparently, of the call just noted; geer or er, low, querulous, very like call of young ^{bird} ~~Wood Pewee~~; peep or quip, the commonest call note & common to both sexes; pe-dee or pe-see, closely resembling cry of young King bird. Nearly all these calls were varied from time to time & several ran into one another through intermediate gradations.

There was a Wilson's Black-cap singing freely & steadily among the alders by the brook. Its song was we-we-we-we-we all the notes on one key & without special emphasis on any of them. I suppose the bird was a migrant.

Wilson's
Black-cap

A ♂ Marsh Hawk pursued by two Crows passed me as I stood on the bridge.

Bethel, Maine.

1903

June 4
(No 2)

The Maryland Yellowthroat appears to be exceedingly numerous here. All the notes being nearly alike. I noted the song of one of them to-day as wi-pe-we, wi-pe-pe, wi-pe-we, we.

^{or}
Maryland
Yellowthroat

In the afternoon Dr. Gehring & I walked out along the road to Sings Pond. In the woods behind the academy (which was as far as we went) I heard a Black-throated Blue Warbler and an Olive-backed Flycatcher.

Olive-backed
Flycatcher

In the woods below the doctor's house we came upon a ♀ Partridge with young about as big as newly hatched chickens. Seeing her in nearly the same place both yesterday & this afternoon. On the first occasion the chicks ran a few paces & then separated & dispersed as usual, but contrary to their usual custom they kept up an incessant peeping after they had concealed themselves. The mother crawled close about us whining like a puppy, as long as we stood close to her young but when we walked on a few paces (not over ten yards) she ran at once to the place where the chicks were hidden & began cooing them with the peculiar harsh crut, crut, crut - 2-2-2 cry. We thought they joined her but the fence was so thick that we could see only the old bird. We did not see the chicks at all this afternoon nor did they peep. The hen bird started out from a thicket on our side of the path & circled around us whining. She was a gray bird & looked like a typical regala.

^{or}
Hen
Partridge
with young

Bethel, Maine.

1903

June 5

Cloudless but intensely smelly. The sun, looking like a fiery red ball suspended in the heavens, cast neither shadow nor sunshine. In fact the general effect was that of a dark, cloudy day. There was almost no wind & the air was oppressively close.

My morning walk was to Drury Haven's bridge. In the village I heard about three Orioles, two Warbling & one Red-eyed Vireo, two or three Purple Finches, at least six or eight Least Flycatchers, a Wood Pewee, several Robins & Chipping. There are apparently no Yellow Warblers there.

I was surprised to see a solitary Brown Grackle in town just beyond the post office. It was a big male with a fine "boat" tail. I know of no colony of these birds near here.

Brown
Grackle.

On the intervals beyond the railroad I found Robins in considerable numbers, Bluebirds common enough and Bank Swallows in houses skimming about everywhere over the level fields. I saw only one Grass Finch & heard but one Swamp Sparrow. Least Flycatchers were chattering in the trees about every farm house. I heard one Yellow Warbler singing among some bushes on the banks of a creek, & a Black & Yellow Warbler in pasture flowers on a steep hillside. A Warbling Vireo was in full song among some tall maples on the farther bank of the Androscoggin.

Black-poll Warblers appeared to be rather numerous for I heard no less than five notes, one in the village, the others in maples & elms on the intervals. All were of course migrants on their way farther west as most also have been a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher which was calling pe-e in some willows near a creek. Goldfinches were common everywhere. I heard no Orioles after leaving the village.

Black-poll
Warblers

Bethel, Maine

1903.

June 5

(No 2)

Migrant^{vv}
Shrike.

The most interesting experience of the morning remains to be chronicled. I was returning over the intervals and within 200 yds. of the railroad when a Shrike (S. l. nigricans) started from a maple and flew off up the road carrying a bird in its bill. It alighted first on a fence post, next on a bush hoop near the railroad. I got within twenty yards of it each time. As I was approaching it it worked busily & nervously tearing at its prey & eating portions of it. Finally it circled back past me and flew out into a large field where it alighted on a fence post. Before I could get near it again it flew a fourth time leaving its victim which I found was a Bank Swallow. It had eaten the head completely off and had impaled the lower skin of the lower neck on a sharp upright splinter that projected ~~over~~ the post. After examining the Swallow I walked off a few rods when the Shrike immediately returned to it and carried it off across the road to a brush heap dead willow that grew by a wall within 50 yards of a house. I followed and had the great pleasure of watching the Shrike impale the Swallow on a short, sharp stub of a dead twig. It performed this operation precisely in the manner of the western Shrike that I have hung up a field mouse at Bethel since a dozen or so years ago, i.e. by drawing the bird against the stub. Standing a little below it it pulled violently & jerkily for several minutes often flattening its wings with to keep its balance or to gain greater force & occasionally stopping to rest for a moment. Finally it flew away. On examining the Swallow I found it very firmly fixed with the prey driven through the skin & surface muscles of the breast. From a lower branch of the same willow I similarly impaled on a short dead twig driven through the skin of its neck hung a ♀ Bluebird that had evidently

Bethel, Maine

1903.

June 5
(as 3)

Migrant
Shrikes

One dead several days. It showed no signs of decomposition but the eyes had sunk almost out of sight and the flesh on the breast was hard and dry. It bore absolutely no signs of external injury & no portion of the flesh had been removed while the plumage was smooth & perfect. ^{the Swallow was gone at 4 P.M. but the Shrike was not}

Just after the Shrike had left the Swallow ^{was} ~~was~~ ^{on} the fence stake it was joined by its mate a larger, longer, lighter-colored bird no doubt the male. In the afternoon I visited the place again in company with Dr. Gehring and again found both Shrikes. They were more actually together but seemed contented with keeping one another in sight as they sat perched on the fence posts, or telegraph poles along the roadside sometimes within thirty yards of each other. We saw the ♂ fly down to the dusty road & pick up what looked like a large beetle and the ♀ pull a quantity of sheep's wool from the side of an empty barrel standing in a piece of cultivated ground. After arranging it carefully in her bill she took it up the road & into a maple near the one I started her from this morning. I looked this tree over carefully afterwards but could not see anything in it that resembled a nest. Probably the bird really went on beyond it to another tree.

Both Shrikes spent the greater part of the time when I was watching them within an area of about 20 acres. Most of this was perfectly open, intervals grass fields the only trees being those in the long row of planted, silver-barked sugar maples & a few scrubby willows, wild cherries, etc. scattered along the lines of the fences that divided the fields from one another. The Shrikes occasionally perched on some of these trees but their

Bethel, Maine.

1903

June 5
(no 4)

[✓]
Migrant
Shrikes

favorite points of observation were the fence & telegraph posts. In a general way they looked and behaved like northern Shrikes but they appeared smaller & decidedly shorter & stouter while they were somewhat less active & restless. Their heads looked disproportionately large & much thicker & heavier than those of their more northern relatives. The ♀ was a dull, dark-colored bird, the ♂ much lighter with very white underparts & a clear ashy-blue back. The broad black stripe through & about the eye was conspicuous with both of them.

When perched they sat quite motionless save for a slow turning of the head from side to side. I did not see an either of them lift & half spread the tail as the northern Shrike is often does. Their method of flight, however, was ~~unusual~~ with that of Cowbird's and their appearance when on wing nearly the same. I think, however, that they would come closer to the earth. On leaving their perches, whether the latter were fence posts or telegraph poles, they invariably shot down at a steep angle as if aiming at some object on the ground and then skimmed off rapidly across the field only a foot or two above the turf, rising and falling in long, graceful but quick undulation, moving their wings very rapidly at the beginning of each upstroke and then closing them for an instant just as a Woodpecker or Goldfinch does when pursuing its similar "falling" flight. During the exceedingly rapid beat of the wings their light markings were alternately displayed & concealed, giving a flickering effect as of a small bit of looking glass flashed in the sunlight. Neither bird uttered any sound whatever within my hearing. They would not permit me to approach them and nearer than about 20 yds.

Bethel, Maine.

1903.

June 5
(No 5)

As I have just said Bank Swallows were scattered about in great numbers over the water here this morning and their low pleasing chattering cries were constantly in my ears. They must have a large breeding colony somewhere near, probably in the sandy banks of the Androscoggin. Fully 25 or 30 birds were circling about a hen gourd on a steep hill-side. Every half minute or so one of them would swoop down to the ground and pick up a whole feather, stand at full stretch for the river passed by the entire thing. In no instance did I see the feather succeed in making more than 50 or 100 yards before it was overtaken and robbed of its prize & the robber in his turn was usually quickly disposed of. Sometimes the feather would be in the possession of a dozen or more different birds in the course of less than a minute. When this happened it made little or no progress towards its ultimate destination being simply watched and held for an instant by bird after bird while the remainder of the flock was flying about & around the center of interest in a narrow circle.

At length, however, some Swallow lighter or stronger than the others would get it and carry it straight off to the river bank closely followed by one or two birds while all the others returned to the poultry yard. It was one of the prettiest sights of the kind that I have ever witnessed. I am by no means sure that the birds were not simply playing with the feather as the Tree Swallows certainly sometimes under similar conditions

Bank
Swallows

Bethel, Maine.

1903.

June 8

Cloudy with strong S.W. wind and occasional brief showers of fine, mist-like rain, the first for many weeks here.

I went to the intervals this morning to look for the Shrike's nest which, by an odd chance, proved to be in the very first tree I visited, a small elm standing alone by the side of the lane that leads to the shoe factory from the main road, some 200 yards from the railroad station and not over 50 yards from the mill. The place where I saw the Shrikes on the 5th is some 200 yards distant but the brush-heap to which the ♀ took the Swallow on that occasion is within 30 yards of the nest. Neither bird was about it when I discovered it this morning so I kept on to the other locality beyond. Scarcely had I reached it when the ♂ Shrike appeared, skimming low over the wide field on the western side of the road bearing some rather large, dangling object in his bill. He took it into a small, stunted elm by the roadside and affixed it to a short branch, spending less than a minute in the operation. After he had flown away I went to the tree and found a Pileated Woodpecker sitting crosswise on the branch his ^{hind} legs well clamped at the knees, his head resting on his forehead front paws, his eyes wide open. So very life-like was his attitude & expression that I could not believe him dead until I touched him. He was so perfectly balanced that I thought at first that the Shrike had merely placed him carefully on the branch but on close examination I found that he was firmly impaled on a short pointed twig which had penetrated half an inch or more into the fleshy part of the thigh. He was a fair-sized specimen but very thin & sleeker.

^v
Migrant
Shrike

Bethel, Maine.

1903.

June 8
(No 2)

I searched all the scattered trees & flower pots in the neighborhood in the hope of finding more victims but without success. The Bluebird had been removed from the willow since my last visit on the afternoon of the 5th.

Not long after the appearance of the 8 Shrikes this morning I saw two of feeding on a flower stalk well out in the open fields. For nearly an hour the remaining victim 2 yards of the down spot although the frequently took short flights usually to the ground and back again to the down or a neighboring perch on the flower stalk or pole. Although I watched her closely I did not once see her catch anything.

Her manner of flying down to the ground & back reminded me strongly of that of a Bluebird. Sometimes she would remain on the ground for a minute or more hopping or fluttering from clod to clod on the recently ploughed land evidently looking for insects but ordinarily she flew back to her perch almost immediately after alighting on the ground. While perched she remained for the most part as immovable as a Hawk & in a similarly erect, tense attitude.

Her note was also in light most of the time. His favorite perches were on the telegraph poles & this connecting wire along the roadside. While sitting on these his attitudes were as light & graceful as those of the Northern Shrike & he balanced himself in the same way shifting his position frequently and often raising & lowering his long tail as well as occasionally half spreading it. It was a beautiful sight to see him start from his elevated perch and after a few rapid vibrations of his short, white feathered wings, glide on a long, gentle incline half across a broad field before coming to the ground. Sometimes he would move very swiftly but as a rule his motion after he

Migrant[✓]
Shrike.

Bethel, Maine.

1903.

Jan 8

(No 31)

^{✓✓}
Migrant
Shrike.

had gone a few rods beyond home and slowly until he seemed to move no faster than a leaf & then he down drifting before a light wind & with equal lightness and grace. I can think of no other bird which can fly in just this way. After the first few wing beats he held his wings wide-spread & quite motionless, his bill pointing downwards, his tail closed. He slowly approached his mate nearer than 50 yards but over he went directly towards her and alighted within ten feet of her when she greeted him with a low, harsh, vibrating cry & a long-continued fluttering of her wings like that of a young bird. On another occasion I saw him fly directly off from a telegraph pole for a distance of about 100 yards and then mount straight upwards to a height of forty or fifty feet apparently in pursuit of some flying insect which I thought he caught & instantly swallowed. During the upward flight he beat his wings vigorously but they were held nearly or quite immovable during the long, smooth glide by means of which he reached a few feet well out in the field. Soon after this he flew down to the ground & picked up what looked like a large beetle. Holding this in the tip of his bill he came nearly straight towards me and, to my great surprise, alighted by the side of a young Shrike which all the while were have been sitting within ten yards of me on a fence near by the roadside. The young bird received the insect in its wide opened bill & instantly swallowed it at the same time quivering its wings. The place where it sat was not over twenty yards from the elm where I had previously seen the fly captured. Why had not the fly been given directly

Bethel, Maine.

1903

June 8
(no 4)

To the young Shrike? why had not the parents fed it ^{at} Migrant
at all previous to this driving Shrike ^{or} home I had been watching them (I should certainly have seen them feed it had they done so)?
and where was the remainder of the brood? were guesses
that I asked myself in vain. I searched the whole
neighborhood carefully but without discovering any more
of the young. The one I had seen fed was conspicuous
enough (after my attention had been called to him)
and one of the prettiest and oddest little birds I have
ever seen. He could fly only a few yards at a time but
he hopped along the fence rail ahead of me almost as fast
as I could walk using his wings only when I was
on the point of touching him with my hand.
His wings & tail were mostly black but the secondaries &
greater wing coverts were broadly tipped with rusty brown.
His under parts were especially ornamented with wavy
grayish lines on a lighter gray ground. His eyes were
very large & expressive, ~~but~~ his bill short & blunt.
Most peculiar of all was his little stub tail scarcely two
inches long. He carried it nearly erect & kept ~~it~~ bobbing it
up & down and flitting it from side to side in the
most annoying way. All his motions were exceedingly
quick & animated when I was pursuing him but
after I had left him he sat erect & still with
his plumage fluffed out like a little Owl.

On my way back I climbed to the nest & examined it
closely. It was placed directly against the main stem of the
elm about ten feet above the ground & was of the usual
bubbly character. From below it looked into within the
nest of a Thrasher for it contained many large twigs in
the lower portions but the walls were thickly & evenly

Bethel, Maine.

1903

June 8

(No 5)

filled with a variety of soft materials. There were fewer feathers than usual in the lining but such as there were looked fresh & clean as did the entire surface of the inner cup at the bottom of which lay a handsomely marked egg. Although I took this out & looked at it curiously I was unable to decide whether it was added or freshly laid. I am inclined to think however that it may be the first egg of a second clutch ^{on June 5-6} for I saw the female Shrike pull a tuft of Shrike's nest from a barrel and take it off in the direction of the nest and when I was descending then the bird was flying swiftly towards it and hovered within a few feet of my head uttering her harsh, gutting cry. This I thought could be best compared to the long-drawn plaint of a Canadian Warbler. Save for the fact that the notes were deeper, harsher, louder and given in much more rapid succession. When I heard it in the open field earlier in the morning it also reminded me a little of the mew of a cat bird.

While I was watching the Shrike I heard two Bobolinks and a Lawrence Sparrow singing in the grass not far from their posts of observation & on several occasions Bank Swallows hummed close past one or the other of them. They seemed to take no notice whatever of these birds but to be wholly intent on watching the ground for insects.

As I passed through the village on my way back I again heard the cry of a Bronzed Grackle in the cluster of elms behind the post office. A moment later a pair of these birds flew out nearly over me.

^{✓✓}
Migrant
Shrike

Bronzed
Grackles

Bethel, Maine.

1903.

June 10

Cloudy with light S.W. wind.

Visited the Shuler family this morning in company with Walter Deane. Found the ♀ on the nest apparently sitting but did not disturb her. The ♂ was ranging about on his own territory & that which his mate has previously covered, hunting insects of which we saw him catch a number all of which he took to his solitary offspring. The latter although apparently no larger or better feathered than when I saw him but two days ago, could fly strongly this morning. He followed his father from place to place.

Taking flights of 100 yards or more at a time & alighting well up in leafy trees as well as on fence posts. The old male sang a ~~series of notes or notes in succession~~ little when perched on a tall weed stalk in a field. This is the first time I have heard his song. It was much like that of the Florida bird & I rendered it on the spot as pe'lee, pe'lee, pe'lee etc. Consisted of a single note uttered eight or ten times in rather quick succession. I rendered this note on the spot as pe'lee. It was soft, rather plaintive and decidedly musical. Walter thought it resembled the peep of Wilson's Wren but it was much less shrill & piercing & to my ear more ~~like~~ like the bee note of the Blue Jay although not very near that either.

Migrant
Shrikes

Bethel, Maine

1903.

June 11

Cloudy with occasional light showers. Wind S. E.
Clouds hanging low on the mountains.

Visited the Shrikes nest about half past eleven this forenoon. Both birds absent when we reached the tree but as Gilbert was climbing it they suddenly appeared and fluttered close about his head like a pair of big Butterflies uttering a rapid succession of scolding cries very like those of a Solitary or Yellow-throated Vireo (ch-ch-ch-ch etc.) but louder and sharper. We took the nest which contained a set of four beautifully marked eggs. The birds came within 4 or 5 feet of Gilbert & when rising kept their tails wide-spread.

Migrant
Shrike

Soon after this we started for the Lake by stage with George Chapman as driver. The trip proved a comfortable & very pleasant one for there had been enough rain to lay the deep dust and the air was cool and fresh. The scenery, however, was obscured by low clouds and mist.

No birds of any especial interest were noted. Grass Finches, Bobolinks and Savannah Sparrows appeared to be more numerous than usual, White-throated Sparrows and Junco rather less so. Wilson's Thrushes and Alder Flycatchers were heard in very many places and Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes in and about Grafton notch.

I cannot remember ever seeing Barn Swallows before between Bethel and Upton but there is now a good-sized colony at Poplar Town, where we counted 28 nests attached to the west side of the barn under the eaves, and two smaller colonies about the house in Grafton.

Eave
Swallows

Ball's Umbagog

1903

June

- ✓ *Sceloporus* *sceloporus* 11⁴/₂ ^{Bitter to Upton} 14¹/₂ B. Meadows.
- ✓ *Turdus* *phoeniceus* 11²/₂ Bitter to Upton 14¹/₂ B. Meadows.
- ✓ " *swainsoni* 11¹⁰/₂ " " 12³/₂ 13⁴/₂ 14⁵/₂ ^{Corn R. Ball} 8¹/₂ ^{How}
- ✓ " *fuscescens* 11⁶/₂ " " 14⁶/₂ ^{Corn R. Ball} 2 ^{B. Meadows}
- ✓ *Merula* *nigrotoria* 11²⁰/₂ " " 12⁴/₂ 13⁴/₂ 14¹/₂ ^{B. Meadows} 2 ^{Corn R.} 15¹/₂ ^{Great Dam}
- ✓ *Salicaptus* *coromandus* 12²/₂ 13³/₂ 14¹/₂ ^{near Bitter to Upton}
- ✓ *Sitta* *canadensis* 12¹/₂
- ✓ *Citrea* *americana* 14¹/₂ ^{Corn R. River}
- ~~*Sitta* *canadensis*~~
- ✓ *Regulus* *sabineus* 12²/₂ 13³/₂
- ✓ *Parus* *atrapallus* 12²/₂ 13³/₂
- ✓ *Helminthophila* *rubicapilla* 11⁶/₂ Bitter to Upton 14¹/₂ B. Meadows - 15¹/₂ ^{Great Dam}
- ✓ *Comptosia* *a. americana* 12³/₂ 13³/₂ 14⁵/₂ ^{Corn R. River}
- ✓ *Dendroica* *coronata* 12²/₂ 13³/₂ 14¹/₂ ^{B. Meadows} 1¹/₂ ^{B. Meadows}
- ✓ " *iriana* 13³/₂
- ~~*Corvus* *corax*~~
- ✓ " *blackburni* 12²/₂ 13³/₂ 14¹/₂ ^{Corn R. River}
- ✓ " *nasutus* 11⁶/₂ Bitter to Upton 12³/₂ 13⁴/₂ 14⁵/₂ ^{Corn R. River}
- ✓ " *castanea* 12¹/₂ ^{near Bitter to Upton}
- ✓ " *flavida* 12¹/₂ 13³/₂ ^{Sp. near Bitter to Upton}
- ✓ " *flavogularis* 11⁶/₂ Bitter to Upton 12³/₂ 13⁴/₂ 14³/₂ ^{Corn R. River} 15¹/₂ ^{Great Dam}
- ✓ *Geothlypis* *trichas* 11⁶/₂ " " 12²/₂ 13³/₂ 14²/₂ ^{Corn R. River}
- ✓ *Sitta* *aurocapilla* 13¹/₂ 14¹/₂ ^{B. Meadows}
- ✓ " *nasutus* 12⁶/₂ 13⁴/₂ 14⁵/₂ ^{(3) Corn R. River}
- ~~*Sylvia* *canadensis*~~
- ✓ *Setophaga* *miniata* 11²/₂ Bitter to Upton 12³/₂ 13⁴/₂ 14⁶/₂ ^{Corn R. River} 15¹/₂ ^{Great Dam}
- ✓ *Brus* *obsoletus* 11³/₂ " " 12²/₂ 13³/₂ 14³/₂ ^{Corn R. River} 15¹/₂ ^{Great Dam}
- ✓ " *solanus* 13¹/₂ ^{B. Meadows}
- ✓ " *philadelphicus* 14²/₂ ^{B. Meadows}
- ✓ *Amphispiza* *cedrorum* 11²/₂ Bitter to Upton 12³/₂ 13⁴/₂ 15²/₂ ^{B. Meadows}

Lake Umbagog.

1903

June 12

Cloudy with a gale of wind from the S.E. and torrents of rain, beating down the timber vegetation and filling the long depleted streams to overflowing.

Before the rain began in earnest this morning I paddled across the flooded meadows to Upton in the old gray canoe. Gilbert joined me at Jim Morris's place where we spent the day overhauling my camping outfit which I have decided to break up removing some of the things to Concord and selling the remainder, if possible.

On my way across the meadows I saw a few Red-wings and ~~Red-bellies~~ and a number of Meadow Larks.

The usual wood birds in about the usual numbers were singing along the borders of the meadows. I heard only two or three Black-throated Robins, however, and but one Olive-backed Thrasher. Woodpeckers of all kinds were also apparently either scarce or wanting.

The white sparrows near the mill, between the road and Cambridge River, were only six to eight feet high when I made my first visit to Upton in 1872. They are now forty or fifty feet in height and a foot or more in diameter at the base. In them a great number and variety of small birds were singing and cooing all day long in spite of the furious storm. Purple Finches, Black & Yellow Warblers & Kinglets seemed to be among the commonest species.

Early in the afternoon a few Whistlers crossing the land from the Cambridge River to the lake passed just over these sparrows and very near Jim's Shop.

As evening approached the storm increased. I would have been difficult to cross the lake in my canoe & impossible to land from her on Lakeside. Gilbert & I were therefore only too glad to accept Alva Cook's invitation to spend the night at

Across the
Lake to
Upton

Birds at
mouth of
Cambridge
River

White Sparrows
near the
mill (i.e.
the "Savins")
Birds
in them.

(his house)

Loane Umbagog.

1903.

June 13

The south-east storm continued all day but with
ever lessening violence.

Our work had progressed so well that I found
time to wander about in the neighborhood of the
mill and to revisit many of the old familiar scenes
where he kept a part of my first discoveries in the
Loan were made in the '70's. Although the place
has changed badly during the past twenty years it is
evidently still one of the best localities for small birds
in the whole Umbagog Region. Especially true is this
of the white Heron woods in the rear of the mill and of
the mixed woods behind the Lake House. This house
is no longer used for a hotel and it is badly in need
of repairs but it has changed but little in outward
appearance.

Most of the interest attending to the slight & superficial
observations which I was able to make to-day relates to
familiar & well known birds.

A Cat-bird was singing yesterday and to-day in
a thicket opposite the house near the Storace Landing where,
according to Alton Cookidge, he has been constantly seen & heard
for the past month or more.

The Barn Swallows still cling to the old barn at the
Lake House & the colony is bigger than ever. I counted no
less than 54 nests most of which were on the south (gable)
end of the barn scarcely supported by posts. There were
also a few on the east side when the birds nested
extensively in the '70's.

Another & smaller colony of these Swallows (no doubt one
overflows from the other) has taken possession of my
first house (built in 1899) where there are now twelve

Neighborhood
of old
Abbott mill

✓
Cat bird

✓
Barn
Swallows

✓
Barn
Swallows

Lake Umbagog.

1903.

June 13

(No 2.)

occupied nests, most of which are at the gable end.

At the opposite end of this boat-house, well up in the north gable inside, I found a Swift's nest attached to the vertical work of rough frame boarding. Fresh droppings beneath indicated that it is occupied this season, as it was last, according to June, but I saw nothing of the birds. Their only chance of ingress & egress, apparently, is a small opening just over the big sliding doors in front.

✓
Chimney
Swift's nest
in my
boat house.

A pair of Phalaropes continue to nest under the bridge that crosses the river by the well where I found them as far back as 1872. I saw one of the birds to-day way down this bridge. They used to be the only Phalaropes known to occur about Umbagog Cove. There is another pair settled this season at the Steamer Landing in front of Lakeside where they probably have a nest in one of the boat houses.

✓
Poebel's
nest under
bridge.

A Black-bellied Martin was singing freely better yesterday and to-day among the white pines near Bernier's Shop. I wonder if he can be breeding there! The date seems late for a migrant.

✓
Black-bell
Martin.

I returned to Lakeside this evening in my canoe under roofed sail.

Lake Umbagog.

1903.

June 14

Clear & cool with fresh S. E. wind.

Soon after breakfast I started for a walk along the road that leads eastward from Lakeside. On reaching the first piece of woods I stopped for a moment to look at a plant that grows by the roadside. As I was standing there I became conscious of the song of what I took, at first, to be a Red-eyed Vireo coming from an aspen bush over my head. It did not especially attract my attention at first but presently it struck me as being not quite normal and the next instant it occurred to me that it might come from a Philadelphia Vireo. I now gave it careful attention and the longer I listened the surer I became that the bird was V. philadelphicus. His song although generally similar to the Red-eye's was less vigorous, flowing and varied the notes being given at somewhat wider intervals and, with less emphasis, there seemed to be only three really different notes, a pee-c-e exactly like that of bluebirds, another note closely similar to this and a see-wee-e which, as I dimly remembered, I had learned to consider characteristic of philadelphicus when I had repeated opportunities of studying its song in this same locality in 1879.

Philadelphia
Vireo

On the present occasion I spent at least fifteen minutes looking for the singer before I saw him. There was no wind whatever at the time and the leaves of the aspen hung limp and motionless. Had any bird, however small, hopped or flitted among them he must have agitated the foliage. Yet the song came almost unceasingly from somewhere in the upper parts of the tree. After I had walked around it several times, moving very slowly and craning my neck upward until it ached intolerably,

Lake Umbagog.

1903.

June 14

(No 2.)

I came to the conclusion that the bird must be sitting motionless on some leafy twig as Vireos will sometimes do while singing. I therefore decided to throw a few stones up into the foliage in the hope of starting him out but just as I was about to hurl the first it suddenly occurred to me that the males of certain of our New England Vireos (especially the Warbling & Solitary) are given to singing on the nest while tending their young at incubating the eggs. Dropping the stones that I had collected I began again to walk slowly around the tree looking, this time, for a nest instead of a bird. I had taken scarce three steps when, through an opening in the foliage, I caught sight of a globular object of a light grayish-brown color fully thirty feet above the ground in the middle of the tree and not more than ten feet below its topmost twigs. Hastily raising my glass and holding it still for a moment with no slight difficulty, for I was by this time trembling with excitement, I saw at the first glance that the object which had arrested my attention was a small, neat and perfectly new Vireo's nest attached to a short, lateral twig of one of the slender, upright, terminal shoots which formed the crown of the aspen. A moment later I made out the head of the sitting bird moving restlessly from side to side. Presently he began singing again when I could see his throat swell and his bill open slightly as he delivered each successive note. Shortly after this he left the nest and flew across the road into the top of a much taller aspen where he perched on a dead twig and remained motionless for several minutes singing continuously. I had a fine view of him here for

Philadelphia
Vireo.

Loake Umbagog

1903.

June 14

(No 3)

He sat facing the south-east and the sunlight, flitting Philadelphia
feet on his throat and breast, brought out clearly Vireo.
the yellowish coloring of those parts which was of somewhat
unusual depth and extent for a Vireo philadelphicus in
spring plumage. Had I not been able to see him thus
plainly, as well as to note his small size (he looked
no bigger than a Nashville Warbler) when he crossed the
road, I should now have concluded that he was
nothing, after all, but a common Red-eye for during
the entire time that he remained in the top of
this tall tree then he poured out a flood of song not
less rapid, varied, continuous and euphonic than, and,
in every respect, as far as my ears could detect, identical with
that of the most voluble "Preacher". Even the characteristic
ser-see-c was wholly omitted. But when, after this brief
period of relaxation, he returned to the nest he resumed
the slow, brother, listless singing which I have already
described & with it the ser-see-c note. Another bird,
evidently of the same species, was singing all the while in
a precisely similar manner about sixty yards back from
the road in the direction of the Lake. I did not
go in search of him, partly because the birds are so
not but chiefly for the reason that I was deeply engrossed
in the bird whose nest I had just found.

I spent the greater part of the forenoon (from 9 to 12,
with the exception of about fifteen minutes devoted to going
back to the house to get Gilbert) in the immediate
neighborhood of the nest. Soon during the brief period which
the male spent in the tall apple (and ^{some} that during which
I was absent) he remained on the nest singing peacefully
the whole time. He seemed restless & ill at ease frequently,

Loach Umbagog.

1903.

June 14

(No 4)

shifting his position. Occasionally he would turn half around in the nest and once he craned his neck over its rim and rearranged some of the ~~older~~ material with his bill, tugging at it rather violently. The ♀ was not seen on this occasion.

Dr. Dwight has stated (Auk XIV, 1897, p. 266) that the song of philadelphicus "partakes of the liquid sweetness and leisurely irregularity of that of the Solitary Vireo, the notes being sweeter, clearer, and a trifle higher pitched than those of the Red-eye." This is perhaps true in a general way but yet the statement seems to me on the whole misleading for the voice of the Philadelphia Vireo lacks almost wholly that wild, ringing quality which makes the voice of the Solitary so very beautiful and effective. It is, indeed, at least to my ears, scarcely less tiresome and monotonous than that of the Red-eye and, as I have already remarked, all but one of the notes appear to be identical in form and nearly so in quality and expression with some of those habitually used by V. olivaceus. The exception—the ser-vire-e note—certainly bears a marked resemblance in form to one of the Solitary's notes but it has much less vigor & beauty of expression. Dr. Dwight does not appear to have heard the rapid, voluble song at all. This, as I have above stated, seems to me to be absolutely indistinguishable from the normal song of the Red-eye. It did not occur to me, unfortunately, to turn the glasses when the bird was singing in the tall poplar this morning but I am sure that there must have been quite as many to the minute as the more voluble Red-eye, is ever capable of achieving. On the whole it is quite

Philadelphia
Vireo.

Loake Umbagog.

1903.

June 14
(no 5)

Safe to say that no one who does not possess an ear capable of discriminating the nicest differences in bird voices can hope to distinguish the song of the Philadelphia from that of the Red-eyed Vireo even when the two birds are performing at the same time in neighboring tree tops.

Immediately after dinner I crossed the Lake to Upton in the gray sailing canoe. Jim Bernier met me at the Mill and paddled me up Cambridge River to the head of B. Meadows. It was a perfect afternoon, cloudless with a fresh, cool east wind. The river, swollen by the recent heavy rains to "driving pitch," was congested on its banks and the bordering swampy forest was flooded for miles. Nevertheless it was, as usual, alive with birds most of which were in full song. B. Meadows had been converted by the flood into a long, irregularly beautiful lake. A Bittern was pumping thru among some half-submerged bushes but on land no Ducks. The latter had no doubt been frightened away by a large gang of lumbermen who were camping near the Forks and peeling "popple". The fine grove of tall popples in the neighborhood are falling fast before the relentless axe but the cypress forest between the Forks and the Mill has been cut into in but few places since my last visit and most of the large white Spruces and Balsam firs along the river banks still remain untouched. Black flies assailed us in clouds but, strange to relate, there were practically no mosquitoes. Nor have there been any anywhere about the Lake (save near Bird Dam) this spring. Their absence has been done, no doubt, to

Trip up
Cambridge
River to
B. Meadows.

Bittern

Bark peeler

Destruction
of popples
at Forks.

Black flies
mosquitoes

Lake Umbagog.

1903.

June 14
(no 6)

the excessive drought which prevailed in western New England since the first week of April to the 12th of June. Fortunately there have been no forest fires near the Lake since a small one, that was quickly extinguished, on Spelman's Point.

During the trip up and down Cambridge River this afternoon I noted many individual birds of every kind that come within my sight or hearing. The list is as follows:-

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. <u>Melospiza migratoria</u> 3 (1 ♀, 2 ♂♂) | 23. <u>Zonotrichia albicollis</u> 5 ♀ | List of
Birds noted
up Cambridge
River |
| 2. <u>Larus fuscus</u> 6 (3 ♀, 1 ♂) | 24. <u>Melospiza melodia</u> 4 ♀ | |
| 3. " <u>americanus</u> 5 ♀ | 25. " <u>georgiana</u> 3 ♀ | |
| 4. " <u>palmeri</u> 1 ♀ (B. Meadows) | 26. <u>Agelaius phoeniceus</u> ♀ (B. Meadows) | |
| 5. <u>Anthus hyemalis</u> 3 ♀. | 27. <u>Troglodytes aedon</u> 2 (" ") | |
| 6. <u>Ardea f. americana</u> 1 | 28. <u>Gymnocitta cristata</u> 1 ad. | |
| 7. <u>Carpodacus a. ussuri</u> 4 ♀. | 29. <u>Contopus borealis</u> 1 ad. | |
| 8. <u>Helmintophila rubicapilla</u> 1 ♀ (B. Meadows) | 30. <u>Empidonax alpinus</u> 3 | |
| 9. <u>Mniotilta varia</u> 1 ♀. | 31. " <u>miniatus</u> 2 ♀ (near the Falls) | |
| 10. <u>D. coronata</u> 1 ♀. | 32. <u>Sphyrapicus varius</u> 2 " " " | |
| 11. " <u>maculosa</u> 5 (4 ♀, 1 ♂) | 33. <u>Cathartes pelagica</u> 7 (one looking north, no birds) | |
| 12. " <u>penicillata</u> 1 ♀. | 34. <u>Chondestes pelagicus</u> 1 (B. Meadows) | |
| 13. " <u>glaucocephala</u> 1 ♀. | 35. <u>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</u> 2 " " | |
| 14. <u>Gallinula trichas</u> 2 ♀. | 36. <u>Ceryle alcyon</u> 2 | |
| 15. <u>Scarus nubicornis</u> 3 ♀. | 37. <u>Botaurus lentiginosus</u> 1 ♀ (B. Meadows) | |
| 16. <u>Scolopax nivalis</u> 5 ♀. | | |
| 17. <u>Vireo olivaceus</u> 3 ♀. | | |
| 18. <u>Hirundo erythrogastra</u> 1 (B. Meadows) | | |
| 19. <u>Coccyz c. minor</u> (16) (13) (4) | | |
| 20. <u>Caprimulgus vociferans</u> 1 ♀. | | |
| 21. <u>Parus borealis</u> 1 ♀ (B. Meadows) | | |
| 22. <u>Turdus hyemalis</u> 1 ♀. | | |

Lake Umbagog.

1903.

June 14
(no 7)

On my return from the trip of Cambridge River I called on Alva Coolidge. He had just got back from B. Pond with two Loon's eggs which he took this afternoon. The nest, he tells me, was in a cove directly in front of a big rock, not concealed in the slightest degree by grass or bushes but simply built up of mud and a few sticks a few inches above the surface of the shallow water by which it was surrounded. The bird passed out directly under his boat in about 3 feet of water as he entered the cove.

Loon's eggs ✓
Taken at
B. Pond.

Alva Coolidge tells me that he has seen at least four different hen Spruce Partridges this spring along the track that leads from Upton to B. Pond. He has searched long & carefully for their nests but without success. It was on this track that he & John Hager found the nest & 5 eggs that the latter gave me two years ago.

Spruce ✓
Grouse

I sailed most of the way back to Lakeside this evening before a light breeze. Swainson's Thrushes & Water Thrushes were singing all along the shores of the flooded meadows. I heard one Piloted Woodpecker calling in the woods between the Baker House & the Stone farm and saw another fly from B. Point across to the Lakeside shore. Red winged Black birds in small numbers & Mowed Grackles in somewhat larger numbers about the flooded islands.

Birds noted at mouth of Cambridge River.

Very few Sand Swallows compared to the earlier times but

Tree Swallow ✓
Black Duck

~~A Black Duck rose from in shore & made a number of short flights, alighting ^{quacking loudly} once or twice in places ^{where} I was directly ⁱⁿ the way of the boat. ^{It} came to my ears from ^{several} points among the flooded grass.~~

Lake Umbagog.

1903.

June 14

(no 8)

This is scarcely to be wondered at in view of the fact that the stubs have almost wholly disappeared from this part of the bank. Most of those which used to stand along or near the river banks have either rotted and fallen or been cut by the lumbermen because they impeded the drives but those which fringed the shores & especially the coves well back from the course of the river were cut, a few years ago, by the Upper people, for firewood.

As I was returning to Lakeside in my canoe, late yesterday afternoon, I surprised a mother Black Duck with her brood of six young (which appeared to be about a week old) swimming close to a bed of half-submerged grass not far from Pease's Spring. The young scathed at the first alarm and running on the surface of the water, after the interesting manner of all young wild ducks, quickly disappeared among the grass. The mother rose with loud quacking and flying rather heavily, or, at least, slowly, circled around me just out of gunshot, finally alighting some distance off & well to one side of my course. It was raining at the time and there was a strong S. E. wind before which I was scudding under reefed sails.

Black
Duck with
young.

As I approached the same place this evening, paddling quietly over the calm surface, I heard the thin, feeble peeping of the young which appeared to be well scathed among the flooded grass. Peep - peep - peep - peep - peep - peep they called to one another (or to their parent) almost exactly like young tame ducks. Presently the mother rose at some distance off, close to the edge of the woods. Somewhat

Black Duck
with young.

Lake Umbagog.

1903.

June 14
(No 9)

to my surprise she adopted tactics wholly different from those which she pursued last evening. On the present occasion she persecuted me for a considerable distance by a succession of short flights alighting each time directly in line with my course in open water and taking wing again just before I got within long gun range. It seemed to me quite evident that she was trying to lure me away from her young but if so she made no attempt to simulate the actions of a wounded bird.

Black Duck
with young.

A Fish Hawk soaring over the flooded meadows passed me within 100 yards or less a number of times. I saw no Herons, either here or during the trip up the river earlier in the day. Alva Coolidge tells me that the Great Blue Herons are nesting again in large numbers near Sunday Cove. (He afterwards wrote both me and John E. Hayer that he visited this herony a day or two after my departure. There were upwards of 100 nests but nearly all of them were empty. He saw only one living adult bird which was feeding young in one of the nests but he found about twenty-five dead Herons (all adults) lying about on the ground. Most of them had been covered with rotten wood torn from an old log. He thought they had been dead about two weeks. Not far from the place he came upon a deserted camp on the Lake shore where Partridge wings lay scattered about. Evidently some marauders or vandals had visited the herony early in June and killed practically all the birds. This, says, he thought, had been afterwards eaten by other birds.)

Fish Hawk.

✓
Great Blue
Herons
nesting near
Sunday Cove

Lake Umbagog.

1903.

June 15

Early morning sunny; remainder of day cloudy with frequent heavy showers. Wind N. W.

Alva Cookidge and Gilbert met by appointment in the woods near Lakeside at 5.30 this morning and took the Philadelphia Vireo's nest with the ♀ parent. The ♂ was on the nest and singing freely when they reached the place. He did not leave the eggs until Gilbert had climbed to within a yard or two of the nest and began shaking the branch to which it was attached. He then flew directly off into the woods. Presently he returned with his mate and as Gilbert was cutting off the branch and packing the eggs both birds came about him in the tree top, peeping a little with the low complaining cry which so nearly resembles that of V. gilvus. The ♂ called shy & suspicious, however, and soon departed again. The ♀ was shot in the apple by Alva Cookidge with a light charge of no. 10 shot. All this I hear from Gilbert for I remained in my room the whole party because I had some packing to do but chiefly for the reason that I knew I should "rattle" Gilbert by unnecessary and disturbing warnings & instructions for I was by far too unwisely anxious about the success of the undertaking to trust myself to remain quiet. It was no easy matter, as we had all foreseen, to get to the nest in safety for the steady, upright, tumbling shots among which it hung were in the very top of the tree & exceedingly slender & brittle. But Gilbert executed his difficult task with perfect success as I know he would & left to his own resources. He brought me the nest, eggs & parent bird at 6.30. I saw the eggs (three in number) at once. They were perfectly fresh but the set was complete as I ascertained

Nest of
Philadelphia
Vireo
taken.

Lake Umbagog.

1903.

June 15
(no 2)

on skinning the ♀ bird whose ovaries contained no remaining ovule larger than a no 12 shot.

As soon as I had finished my task I had a hurried breakfast and immediately afterwards took the steamer "Arctic" up the Lake. We went first to Sunday Cove and next to Grand where I disembarked with my baggage and had dinner at Allen's.

During the passage of the Lake I saw a young /ie Brown, Bald Eagle, a Sheldrake (flying past Pine Point) and three Terns flying about in company between the Outlet and Pine Point. The last-named birds were on wing over the same stretch of water where our boat returned from Sunday Cove. I saw them sweep down to the surface repeatedly no doubt to pick up small dead fish. Once when they came within 100 yards I made out very distinctly the dark, almost black, cast of the under parts which distinguishes S. pondicola from S. hirundo and this indeed was to be seen here all, without much hesitation, to the former species.

I saw two Howard Grouse in Sunday Cove and five or six were at the Outlet but no Grouse in either of these places. Nearly all the sticks that formerly were scattered over the marshes near the Outlet have been cut down by the ice during the time between the months of the Megalloway & Grand's Pond still remain standing.

Pine Point looked wholly unchanged and I was glad to see that the five tall pines that border its southern shores have all escaped injury by storm or axe. The Davis Bros. who own the Lakeside Hotel, have taken a lease of the Point and they tell me that it is their intention to preserve my camp & its surroundings just as I left it.

Up the
Lake by
Steamer.

Eagle
Sheldrake

Arctic ✓
Terns.

Browned
Grouse

Sticks nearly
all gone.

Pine Point

Lake Umbagog.

1903.

June 15th
(No 3)

Saw for the slight trouble caused by the camps which have been erected on several of the points about the upper part of the Lake the forests there have changed but little since my last visit although the "black growth" has almost wholly disappeared except near the summits of the surrounding mountains. The lumbering, during the past two winters, has been simply merciless, as far as the firs & balsams are concerned, but the deciduous trees are numerous enough everywhere to effectively conceal their ravages at least from the eye of one passing up the middle of the Lake. It has been filled with dangerous snags most of which are balsam fir logs (or rather split sticks) of the giant size firmly imbedded in the mud. As many of them are under water they render causing somewhat hazardous in is boating.

Changes in
the forest

Merciless
cutting of
spruces &
balsams.

Snags in
the Lake.

As we passed down the Androscoggin on our way to Great I saw just below the mouth of the Megalloway a ♀ Whistler accompanied by four ducklings about 1/2 grown, a pair of Herring Gulls following the course of the river just above the tops of the trees, and a Pileated Woodpecker flying across the stream near Great Meadows. There were also two Crows cawing in the woods near the river water mouth.

Whistlers.

Herring Gulls.

Pileated W.

Crows.

During the time spent at Great Dam I noted the following: - Birds
Robin, 1%; Nashville Warbler, 1%; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1%; noted at
Redstart, 1%; Red-eyed Vireo, 1%; Cedar bird, (2); Barn Swallows, Great Dam
large colony; Pine Siskit, 1; Junco, 2%; Song Sparrows, 1%;
Red Crossbill, ♀ ad & 1 juv (on stump just above); White-throated Sparrows, 1%;
Olive-sided T. Gnatcatcher, 1%; Phoebe, 1%; that in dam shed;
Chimney Swift, (3); Flicker, 1%; - in all eight species.

Lake Umbagog.

1903.

June 15
(No 4)

The colony of Barn Swallows was the largest I have ever seen in northern New England. I counted 95 nests on the front (gable) end of Allen's barn, two on the south side, 4 on the south side of the house, and 54 on the east side of the dam under its projecting roof; in all 155 nests. Many of these were unfinished and some only just begun but all that I included in my count showed unmistakable signs of progressing or very recent work. Mrs. Allen told me that the birds have nested on the barn ever since she & her husband have had charge of the place (about fifteen years) but ~~that~~ they have increased rapidly in numbers during the past few years. She also said that this was the first season when any of them have attempted to build under the eaves of the long shed over the dam itself. The nests have a heavier foundation than as well as in the gable end of the barn. Nearly all the finished nests were of the old-fashioned type, i.e. with well moulded bottle necks. The same thing is true of the nests I have examined lately (during the past week) at "Popple" Tavern and Upton. It is evident that the birds have increased and spread throughout the Lake Region of recent years. The Allens tell me that a large colony has become established at Middle Dam. Despite the unusual number of nests at First Dam there were seldom more than thirty or forty birds in flight over or very near it to-day. Others were coming and going continually, however, and a considerable proportion of the total number seen were usually collected about a pond of rain water in the wood collecting used for their nests.

✓✓
Colony of
Barn Swallows
First Dam

Errol to Colebrook, N.H.

1903.

June 15
(No 5)

I left Errol Dam at 1 P.M. in an open buggy drawn by two large horses driven by Mr. Harrington, Mr. Allen's son-in-law, and reached Colebrook about 6 P.M.

It rained much of the time and the woods were exceedingly soft & muddy. I was particularly impressed by the great number of Savanna Sparrows in the grass fields and pastures between Errol & the hotel. They seemed to be everywhere, on high dry hill-tops as well as in the moist intervale meadows along the corner of the river. They were singing freely but also carrying food in their bills for their young. Bobolinks and Bluebirds were also rather numerous in the grassy fields.

Savanna
Sparrows

Bobolinks

Many Swallows were skimming about everywhere. I saw them entering dilapidated barns and, in two different places, chased horses through broken windows.

Barn
Swallows

As we were passing through the large opening a few miles to the westward of the Moultons a flock of 12 Red Crossbills flew from the top of a spruce growing near the roadside.

Red Crossbills

Near the highest part of the hotel I heard a Philadelphia Vireo singing in some clustered poplar branches which clung to the almost vertical rocky mountain side just above the road. The song was identical in every way with that of the bird on the nest near Lakeside (see journal for June 14th).

Philadelphia
Vireo

Also near the highest part of the hotel I heard the first, better che-late of a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

(Ralph Hoffmann passing over this same road about a week later found two colonies of Horned Larks in Errol & found one bird from a nest which held two young & an unhatched egg)

Errata to Colebrook, N. H.

1903.

June 15
(No 6)

Throughout that portion of Coos Co. N. H. which I traversed this afternoon, as well as in the region about Umbagog and between Upton and Bethel, vegetation generally is in bad condition. It was first scared by frost (on May 23rd when the thermometer fell to 26° and the ground was frozen stiff in the early morning) and afterwards parched by the closing walls of the prolonged drought which began early in April and was not broken until June 12th. The heavy rains which have since fallen have done much to repair this damage but many of the fields are still brown and much of the vegetation has not as yet recovered from the effects of the frost.

* Injury to
vegetation
by frost
& drought.

The young foliage on the black ash & black walnuts is utterly killed & the blackland leaves long crisp & withered; that of all the beeches, many of the alders and a few of the yellow birches, canoe birches (but not the gray birches) and sugar (but not the red) maples was also killed but has since turned a bright rusty color peculiar like that of fire scorched leaves. Few of the other dicotyledons have suffered obvious injury but the fresh shoots (1 to 3 inches long when thickened) of the younger balsams and spruces are similarly scorched and reddened giving the bushes a appearance when their young creepers stand a singular appearance. The herbaceous plants suffered general & serious injury. The leaves of Clintonia & belladonna and the fronds of the tender ferns were nearly all killed. Causing sad disfigurement to the landscapes, usually so fresh & green at this season. Even the grass blades (not only those of cultivated but also of very meadow grasses & sedges) were frozen quite to the ground and turned russet or straw color. Before the rains came there was no surface water or any moisture seen in permanent ponds & streams. Frost has done

Exord to Colebrook, N.H.

1903.

June 15

(no 7)

incalculable damage throughout northern New England although they have been by no means so widespread and disastrous as the woodchoppers have represented. They are now all out, of course. Just before the rains came they covered the entire country with a haze of smoke so dense that even at Boston & New York City the sun cast no shadow and distant objects were obscured. 4 or 5 or 6 days after I reached Bethel the smoke was so thick and dark that one could not see any object, however large & conspicuous, at distances much exceeding 100 yards while the eyes smarted painfully after one had been in the open air for a few minutes. Bearded Ravens were feeding continually on Dr. Fearing's lawn although the nearest fire was more a eight miles away. All the scenery between Bethel and Umbagog, about these lakes and between Exord & Colebrook has fortunately escaped damage excepting by fire although a few acres of woodland were burned one just below Grafton Hatch and a similar area a few miles to the westward of Colebrook. It is generally accepted that no spring drought of equal length & severity has ever before occurred within the memory of the oldest inhabitants of this region & I can well believe the statement.

✱
Forest
fires.

At Colebrook, N.H., where I spent the night I noted the following birds, all in the village: - Robins, 1/2; Maryland Yellow-Throat, 1/2; Cedar Bird, heard; Purple Martin, 1 heard; Red Crossbill, heard; House Sparrow, myriads seen & heard; Baltimore Oriole, 5 heard & 2 seen; Chipping Swift, 5 N.C. This is a thin lot but the evening was gloomy with showers & I did not cover much ground.

Birds
noted at
Colebrook.

Launceston, Mass.

1903.

June 19.20

1. *Sialis sialis*. - 20⁽³⁾
2. *Mniotilta*. - 19³⁰ 20.
3. *Sitta carolin.* - 20⁽²⁾ (Century)
4. *Dend. aestiva* - 19⁶ 20⁸
5. " *vigorsii* - 20¹ (Century)
6. *Geothlypis trichas* - 19¹ 20¹
7. *Sceloporus* - 19² (Century) 20²
8. *Vireo olivaceus*. - 19² 20²
9. " *flavifrons* - 19¹ 20¹
10. " *gilvus* - 19² 20²
11. *Amphisp. cedrorum*. - 19²
12. *Parus angustatus*. - 20¹
13. *Hirundo hor.* - 19⁸ 20⁴
14. *Tachycineta bic.* 19² 20²
15. *Colaptes auratus*. - 19⁽²⁾ 108 holes. inserted by 20⁽¹²⁾
16. *Carpodacus*. - 19¹
17. *Coturniculus passerinus*. - 19¹ (J. & J. Rogers)
18. *Sporus socialis*. - 19¹
19. *Melospiza neta*. - 19¹⁰ 20⁸
20. *Habia aest.* - 19¹ 20¹ (Century Barn)
21. *Cyanospiza cyana*. - 20¹
22. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. - 19¹⁰ 20¹⁰
23. *Agelaius phoeniceus*. - 19¹
24. *Icterus galbula*. - 19² 20² 2 grounds of 20⁶
25. *Corvus americanus*. - 19² 20²
26. *Sturnella magna*. - 19¹⁰ 20⁶
27. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. - 19¹ 20¹
28. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. - 19⁴ 20⁴
29. *Sagittaria phaeocephala*. - 19⁽³⁾ 20⁽³⁾
30. *Empidonax minimus*. - 19¹
31. *Hesperophaga rufus*. - 20¹
32. *Gabuscipus carolinensis*. - 19¹ 20¹
33. *Ceryle alcyon*. - 19¹ 20²
34. *Colaptes auratus*. - 19¹ 20¹
35. *Polea sp.* - 19² 20²
36. *Actitis macularia*. - 19² 20¹

(All the above noted were from Holman's.)
I did not get far away from
the honesty of the bird.

Concealer, Mass.

1903.

June 19

Cloudy with S. E. wind & occasional light showers.

During a visit to Concealer on May 24th last I noticed a large number of Bank Swallows flying about over the river just above the bridge near Miss Holman's and entering - or issuing from - their nesting holes in a neighboring bank. It was evidently a newly-established colony for no birds had been on this particular stretch of river in 1901 or 1902. Visiting the place this afternoon I counted 108 holes but greatly to my surprise there was not, at first, a single bird in sight. At length, however, a single pair appeared and during the next half hour I saw one or both of them birds enter a hole (always the same hole) several times with food for the young. Feeling sure that something must be wrong I finally descended to the river and examined the bank attentively. For a distance of about 8 ft. back from the water's edge the surface of the ground was sandy or gravelly and sloped only very gently upward. Above this for a distance of perhaps 6 ft. (measured along the surface) the slope was at an angle of about 45° and the soil, like that of the vertical bank still higher up, fine, smooth, hard-packed sand. The vertical portion averaged about 2 ft. in height and was slightly overhung in places by the leaning top of the former sand above and behind. All the Swallows holes were, of course, in the vertical face of the bank, some of them just under the overhang and nearly all nearer the top than the bottom of the vertical part. A glance satisfied me that the village boys had not been tampering with them for none of them showed any traces of enlargement. What, then, could have driven the birds away from so apparently safe

1903.

June 19
(No 2.)

and congenial a nesting place? As I was speculating on this point I noticed some scratches on the face of the bank immediately below one of the holes. On examining the other holes I found that only one (that which I had seen the birds enter) was without these tick-toe marks. Invariably they extended from the bottom of the hole (i.e. its entrance) nearly or quite to the foot of the vertical face of the bank and in some instances they were also present on one or both sides of the hole. They resembled deep pin-scratches running nearly straight up and down. Usually there were five of them, from $1/8$ to $1/4$ of an inch apart and perfectly parallel where they followed a somewhat wavy course but in places only two or three could be distinctly traced. Most of them looked rather fresh but some had become much obscured by the action of the weather. Quite evidently they had been made by some animal with sharp-pointed claws in climbing to, descending from, or clinging just below, the holes. At first I suspected the creature to have been a cat for I remembered to have seen a large black cat perched on a narrow shelf of a sand bank at Concord last summer sticking at the anxious and excited bank swallows as they dived on swarms down about her. A little reflection convinced me, however, that no cat would be likely to so utterly break up so large a breeding colony as this. I therefore descended to the river bank hoping to find the solution of the mystery there. Now was I disappointed for the entire exposure of smooth, wet sand along the water's edge was thickly covered with mud trails. They were of various ages from, perhaps, fresh-looking imprints that clearly showed the marks

1903.

June 19
(no 3)

of the animal's toe-prints and even claws to dim impressions evidently blurred by wind or rain. As nearly as I could judge all the tracks must have been made by a single mink or if by more than one at least by animals of nearly the same size and age. They extended back from the water as far as the sand was sufficiently loose to enable them to be traced.

Having thus assumed vaguely that a mink or minks had been raiding the colony of Sand Martins I next looked for remains of the birds. I soon found those of at least six Swallows scattered over the sandy flat near the edge of the water while further back, in a shallow cove beneath a huge clod of turf which had fallen from the bank above, the minks had eaten at least as many more. In most of the different instances they had left only a pile of feathers with perhaps the terminal joint of a wing but I took from beneath the clod the entire head wings and feet of one Swallow still joined together by skin and closely-fledged bones (including the sternum) and the wings tied and one leg of another similarly connected by skin but with all the bones (including the skull) save those in the wing and leg missing. Both of the two birds last mentioned were adults but all the other remains were unmistakably those of young well-grown and covered with spreading feathers of the first or water plumage.

Evidently the mink or minks had fastened long and surreptitiously on this unfortunate colony of Sand Swallows, no doubt eating on the spot or carrying off to more distant retreats practically all the young as well as at least a few of their parents. Such, at all events, would seem to be the plain inference from the ~~few~~ circumstantial evidence above recorded.

1903

June

Glendale, Berkshire Co., Mass.

Birds noted on or near estate of D.C. French.

1. *Sialia bicolor*. — $28^{(4)} 29'$
2. *Musca migratoria*. — $28^{(25)} 29'$
3. *Turdus mustelinus*. — $27\frac{1}{2} 28\frac{3}{4} 29\frac{3}{4}$
4. " *haliaei*. — $27\frac{1}{2} 28\frac{3}{4} 30\frac{1}{2}$
5. " *fuscus*. — $27\frac{1}{2} 28\frac{3}{4} 29\frac{3}{4} 30\frac{3}{4}$
6. *Troglodytes aedon*. — $29\frac{1}{2}$
7. *Geothlypis caerulea*. — $27\frac{1}{2} 28\frac{3}{4} 29\frac{1}{2}$
8. *Harporhynchus rufus*. — $28\frac{1}{2} 30\frac{1}{2}$
9. *Parus atricapillus*. — $29\frac{1}{2}$
10. *Regulus satrapa*. — $27^{(3)}$ humilis in position.
11. *Sitta carolinensis*. — $28^{(22)} 29^{(29)}$
12. *Empidonax hammondi*. — $27\frac{1}{2}$ Carad swamp
13. *Mniotilta varia*. — $27\frac{1}{2} 28\frac{1}{2}$
14. *Dendroica virens*. — $27\frac{1}{2} 28\frac{3}{4}$
15. " *blackburniae*. — $28\frac{1}{2} 29\frac{1}{2} 30\frac{1}{2}$ White pine & hemlock
16. " *pennsylvanica*. — $27\frac{3}{4} 28\frac{1}{2}$ Passion vine & hemlock
17. " *maculosa*. — $27\frac{1}{2} 30\frac{1}{2}$ Passion vine & hemlock
18. " *coronata*. — $30\frac{3}{4}$ Passion vine
19. *Geothlypis trichas*. — $28\frac{3}{4}$
20. *Sialia arctica*. — $27\frac{3}{4} 28\frac{3}{4}$
21. *Setophaga ruticilla*. — $27\frac{1}{2} 28\frac{3}{4}$
22. *Vireo olivaceus*. — $27\frac{1}{2} 28\frac{3}{4}$
23. " *flavifrons*. — $30\frac{1}{2}$
24. " *gilvus*. — $31\frac{1}{2}$ ridge
25. *Amphispiza caerulea*. — $28^{(4)} 29^{(4)}$ ridge
26. *Hirundo horreorum*. — 28 ridge
27. *Coturnix coturnix*. — $28'$
28. *Piranga erythrorhynchos*. — $28\frac{1}{2}$
29. *Spinus tristis*. — $28\frac{1}{2} 29\frac{3}{4}$
30. *Caprimulgus vociferus*. — $28\frac{3}{4} 29\frac{1}{2}$
31. *Spizella socialis*. — $28\frac{3}{4} 29\frac{1}{2}$
32. " *passerina*. — $28\frac{3}{4} 30\frac{1}{2}$
33. *Melospiza melodia*. — $27\frac{1}{2} 28\frac{10}{16} 29\frac{1}{2}$
34. *Habia ludoviciana*. — $27\frac{1}{2}$
35. *Cyanospiza cyanea*. — $27\frac{1}{2} 28\frac{3}{4} 29\frac{3}{4} 30\frac{1}{4}$
36. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. — $28\frac{1}{2}$
37. *Corvus americanus*. — $28^{(6)}$
38. *Cyanocitta cristata*. — $27^{(4)} 28^{(4)}$
39. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. — $28\frac{1}{2} 29\frac{1}{4}$
40. *Sayornis phoebe*. — $27\frac{1}{2}$ (at 7:15 AM)
41. *Myiarchus cinerascens*. — $29\frac{1}{2}$
42. *Contopus virens*. — $27\frac{1}{2} 28\frac{3}{4}$
43. *Empidonax minimus*. — $28\frac{1}{2}$
44. *Colaptes auratus*. — $28\frac{1}{2}$
45. *Chondestes pelagicus*. — $27\frac{3}{4} 28\frac{1}{2}$
46. *Trochilus colubris*. — $27\frac{1}{2} 28\frac{1}{2}$
47. *Anthus trivirgatus*. — $27\frac{1}{2} 30\frac{1}{2}$
48. *Bonasa umbellus*. — $27\frac{1}{2} 28\frac{1}{2}$
49. *Buteo borealis*. — $30\frac{1}{2}$

(French says that Baltimore Orioles are occasionally seen & that Bobolinks were common in the fields over his home early this month. I have written queries to my Horn Sparrows.)

Cambridge, Mass.

1903.

July 3

Clear with fresh North. east wind.

The Solitary Vireo with two songs is still in our neighborhood & still singing both songs freely and with about equal frequency. Yesterday afternoon he came into "the jungle" and Walter Down & I watched him there for ten or fifteen minutes. At one time he approached within six feet of us & perching on a dead twig only a couple of yards above the ground uttered the V. flavifrons song continuously for several minutes. During this time he did not give a single note which the keenest expert in bird music could have distinguished from that of a Yellow-throated Vireo. In short the entire song was absolutely typical of flavifrons in every respect. Equally so of solitarius was the song which he proceeded to utter shortly following it, with a high tone, quality or inflexion being wanting. Indeed when he has fit to utter in the musical note of his own species he is one of the finest performers I have ever heard with a superlatively well, clear ringing voice. The most remarkable thing about it all is that he apparently never by one chance interchanges a note of one song among those of the other. He is indeed either a Solitary or a Yellow-throated as the mood serves but never both in the same breath. Usually he keeps silent for a minute or two before singing the other song, but sometimes he changes from one to another after an interval of only a few seconds. I cannot detect anything abnormal in his color or markings. He has a clean "blue" head, a well marked eye ring & a yellow beneath soon on the sides. He has been singing in the garden as I have been writing thus changing his song twice during the period. I have never seen any other bird with or very

Solitary Vireo
with two
songs.

Cambridge, Mass.

1903.

July 3
(22)

near him but on June 19th Gilbert saw him
carrying building material in the Garden and taking
it across the street into the Horsfield's grounds.

I watched the Robins when into the nest in
our lilacs last evening and made a rough count
of them making the number 212. No doubt
I counted some of them twice but, on the other
hand very many must have slipped in from
the rear of the thicket without being seen. I
am inclined to think that at least 300 were
visiting this nest. The old ones still sing continuously,
but they make less noise than they did a
month ago. They have frequented the nest every
evening, so far as I can learn, since the lilacs
became well-covered with foliage.

Robins were
in the
Garden.

Cambridge, Mass.

1903.

July 22

Cloudy and cool with light E. wind. Heavy thunder shower at 5 a.m.

The Robin roost in our lilies is resorted to every night now by our 500 birds. We see them come in nearly every evening when we are at tea on the back piazza. Last summer one occasional passerine there (we usually took one more as a night bird than) disturbed them more or less and at times created a mounting panic among them but they have now become so accustomed to it that they never show decided alarm and seldom pay any attention to us even when we have a number of guests talking & laughing loudly or moving from place to place under the mosquito netting which screens the front of the piazza. The birds were again arriving about 7 P.M., and the flight is at its height from 7.25 to 7.35 ceasing about 7.45.

I was awake at 3.45 this morning & hearing the Robins calling went into the bath room and took a look by the window to watch them from the roost. Although it was so dark (& foggy, also) that I could scarcely distinguish the sky from the trees the birds were already leaving as I could tell by the noise of their wings as well as by that of their voices. Many of them nearly flew to the nearest tall tree and began singing there working, for a time, an almost deafening clamor (they have nearly ceased singing at home). The exodus was at its height about 4 o'clock and had not wholly ended at 4.25 although a very few birds lingered in the lilies for ten or fifteen minutes later. Thus the morning flight actually lasted longer than the evening one usually does. On one occasion when I

Cambridge, Mass.

1903.

July 22
(No 2/)

watched them go last summer a very large number of birds (certainly more than 100) departed all together with a prodigious whirring of wings like those of a big bag of seed. Nothing of the kind happened this morning, at least while I held the loose under observation. On the contrary the birds left it, as they come to it at evening, a few at a time, the number on wing at any one time seldom exceeding a dozen and ordinarily amounting to not more than one half of that while frequently they went out singly or in twos and threes. Nearly all of them started with upwards (at our angle, usually, of at least 45°) making a loud whirring sound with their wings. This is seldom heard at evening for then they usually approach the roost on a level or descending plane and give silently as far as their wings are concerned. Somewhat to my surprise I found that they dropped their bills almost as frequently, and quite as loudly this morning as they ordinarily do when talking their perches at evening, producing the same nearly measure sound which so strongly resembles the rattling of hail or heavy corn drops striking the boxes. I have hitherto supposed that they dropped their bills to intimidate other Robins who were crowding in on the perches that they had chosen but it now seems doubtful if this explanation will hold good although it may be that they were about among the branches frequently before talking flight to one another. Certainly the foliage was at times a good deal agitated by their movements although less so than is often the case at evening.

Cambridge, Mass.

1903.

July

Birds noted in our Garden.

1. Murela migratoria. - 1st 2nd 3rd 7th 22nd 9th 500th 24th 25th 27th ^{both numbers at court.}
28th 29th 30th 31st
2. Miniotilta varia. - 4th ad. ^{nesting} 7th do. 16th 26th 28th 29th 31st
3. Dendroica aestiva. - 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 7th 14th 17th 18th 20th 24th ^{ad. at court.}
25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st ^{full song}
4. Setophaga ruticilla. - 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 13th 14th 17th 22nd 24th ^{ad. at court.}
25th 26th 28th 29th 30th 31st ^{full song}
5. Vireo olivaceus. - 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 13th 14th 17th 22nd 24th ^{ad. at court.}
25th 26th 28th 29th 30th 31st ^{full song}
6. " flavifrons. - 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 18th 21st 24th 25th 26th ^{ad. at court.}
28th 29th 30th 31st ^{full song}
7. " solitarius. - 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 16th 18th 22nd 26th ^{ad. at court.}
28th 29th 30th 31st ^{full song}
8. Spinus tristis. - 4th ^{ad. at court.} 2nd (H.D.) 7th 14th 17th 20th 22nd 25th 28th ^{ad. at court.}
29th
9. Spizella socialis. - 4th 5th 14th 20th 24th 25th 29th ^{ad. at court.}
10. Habia ludoviciana. - 3rd 4th 7th 8th 14th 18th 22nd 26th ^{ad. at court.}
28th 29th 30th 31st ^{full song}
11. Passer domesticus. - 2nd 3rd 4th 17th 20th 31st ^{ad. at court.}
12. Geothlypis trichas. - 3rd 8th 17th 22nd 24th 28th 31st ^{ad. at court.}
13. Colaptes auratus. - 3rd 5th 14th 18th 22nd 25th 26th 29th 30th ^{ad. at court.}
14. Corvus americanus. - 1st 2nd 3rd 14th 20th 24th 29th ^{ad. at court.}

Cambridge, Mass.

1903.

July

Birds noted in our Garden.

15. Trochilus colubris: 2 ♀ ad.
16. Chaetura pelagica: 1^⑤ 4 h. 7^③ ^{at} ₁₀₀₀ 14 h. 16' 21' 25' 28' 29' 30'
17. Coccyzus americanus. - 4' coming at ^{sunrise} 7' ^{early} 8' ^{mid} 21' ^(W.D.)
18. Falco sparverius. - 4 ♀ flying low in ^{front} ^{of} ^{the} ^{birches}, 8 a.m.
19. Vireo gilvus. - 5' 8'
20. Icterus galbula. - 14 ^{case} ^{with} ⁴ ^{young} ^{heard}. 17 do. 30 h. 9 [♀] ^{W.D.} 11 ^{W.D.}
21. Coccyzus erythrophthalmus. - 17' ^{over} ^{only} ^{at} ^{8 a.m.}
22. Hirundo erythrogastrus. - 20' ^{(flying} ^{low)}
23. Parus atricapillus. - 25' 11' ^{W.D.} 13' ^{W.D.} 27' ^{W.D.}
24. Spinus novboracensis. - 26' ^{seen}
25. Tachycineta bicolor. - 27' ^{flying} ^{low} ^{over} ^{the} ^{garden} ^{at} ^{camp}.
26. Ampelis cedrorum. - 29' ^(in the jungle) 31' ^{h.}
27. Tyrannus tyrannus. - 18'
28. Dryobates pubescens 7' ^{W.D.}
29. Empidonax minimus. - 22' ^{W. a. Purdie}

Cambridge, Mass.

1903.

July 31

Morning sunny; afternoon cloudy; comparatively cool.

The Robin roost in our garden has been declining, somewhat of late, perhaps because the cots have killed several birds on the lawn when they (the Robins) are accustomed to feed in considerable numbers just before going to roost in the hives. I do not think they any cots have as yet found access to the garden itself but something frightened the Robins badly this evening after nearly all of them had entered the roost. One or two old birds which still remained in the tops of the linden trees suddenly began uttering the insistent call which they habitually use as a note of warning or protest when danger of any kind threatens their nests or young. Suddenly the fluttering of the birds, settling on their perches among the leaves, ceased. The next moment the entire throng rose, as if at a given signal, above the tops of the linden trees and scattered in every direction most of them flying off to distances of one hundred yards or more.

As they showed for an instant against the clear sky towards the north they looked like an immense flock of Blackbirds. There would have been fully ten or four hundred in all but this is a London winter than we had here three weeks ago. A few minutes later they began returning & I think that most of them reached the roost & flew the night there. They had returned & afterwards, however, for I repeatedly heard them calling up to nine o'clock. The next morning I found a dead Robin on the lawn but I could find no indications that any birds had been killed in the roost. No such general panic has occurred before this year.

Robin
roost in
the Garden

Cambridge, Mass.

1903.

August

Birds noted in our Garden.

- 20^h 21^h ^(early note) 22^h ^(do) 23^h ^{do} 28^h ^{rather once}
 16. Coccyzus americanus. - 2^h ^(sang over at 7 a.m.) 7^h ^(sang over at 4 P.M.) 8^h ^(cooing at that interval, 7-8 a.m.) 11^h ^(cooing, 6-7 a.m.)
 13^h ^(rather thin, too many times) 14^h ^(rather over 6 a.m.) 15^h ^(cooing 7 a.m.) 18^h ^(rather over one day) 19^h ^(early note)
 17. Sturnus nonparens. - 6^h ^(1st. down chirping later) 7^h ^(chirping) 8^h ^{do.} 9^h 11^h 13^h 14^h 15^h 18^h
 19^h 21^h 22^h 30^h
 18. Dolichonyx oryzivorus. - 8^h 23^h
 19. Sturnus aurocapillus. - 8^h
 20. Cyanocitta cristata. - 8^h ^{(heard many, W.D. 10^h (day) 11^h (evening) 19^h 2^h (evening)}
 21. Parus atricapillus. - 7^h ^(W.D. 8^h 11^h 19^h W.D. W.D. W.D.)
 22. Ceryle alcyon. - 12^h ^(heard trailing off, apparently near pond but probably flying) 15^h ^{do.} 16^h ^{do.}
 23. Corvus americanus. - 12^h 14^h 20^h 22^h 26^h
 24. Lonicola g. cinereus. - 7^h ^(W.D.) 14^h 21^h ^(W.D.) 26^h 28^h
 25. Trochilus colubris. - 13^h ^(1st. later, W.D.) 14^h ^{do.} 15^h ^{do.}
 26. Hirundo erythrogastrus. - 13^h
 27. Tyrannus tyrannus. - 13^h ^(at 11^h W.D.) 21^h ^(1st. very near) 23^h
 28. Contopus virens. - 14^h ^(in jungle, 9 a.m.) 22^h ^(in dense 6-7 a.m.)
 29. Dryobates pubescens. - 15^h
 30. Coccyzus erythrophthalmus. - 20^h ^(W.D. 26^h)

Cambridge, Mass.

1903

August

Birds noted in our Garden.

31. *Sitta canadensis*. - 23 ^{heard in} ~~purple, & all,~~
32. *Carpodacus purpureus*. - 23 ^{flight called by on right} ~~times very near, he said him.~~

South Yarmouth, Mass.

1903.

Sept. 1-7
(hs 2)

13. Spinus tristis. - 2^{hd} 3^{hd}.
14. Passerculus savanna. - 3'
15. Ammodramus caudatus (?) 3[#] in salt marshes, mouth Bass River.
Identified by light only, but certainly Sharp-tailed
of same kind.
16. Tröccetus gramineus. - 4'
17. Melospiza melodia. - 2' 4²
18. Spizella socialis. - 4² 6⁽²⁰⁾ in sandy garden on borders
of valley.
19. Pipilo erythrophthalmus. - 2² 3' 4' 6' - sandy oak woods.
20. Agelaius phoeniceus. 3⁽¹⁰⁾ ^(Brewster) (4⁽²⁹⁾ ^{all white} ₈%) 5^(22 38) _{5 2 8} Cat Tail Swamp, head of
upper part of Bass River.
21. Sturnella magna. - 2' 3⁽⁵⁾ 5'
22. Corvus americanus. - 2' 3⁴ 4⁽⁷⁾ 5⁽¹⁶⁾ 6⁽⁶⁾ All local birds, probably.
23. Cyanocitta cristata. - 2^{hd} 3^{hd} 5-2 6⁽²⁾
24. Colaptes auratus. - 2³ 3⁴ 4²
25. Contopus virens. - 2' 3² Thick pine woods
26. Ceryle alcyon. - 2² 3' 4³ 5-8 Bass River channel.
27. Tachycineta thalassina. 4' 2[♀] or pair; ♂ at head of tank - non-est
near tank at Robinson's bridge.
28. Circus hudsonius. - 2' 4² brown birds at Cranberry Bog
near Brewster.

South Garmouth, Mass.

1903.

Sept. 1-7

(no 3)

29. Cathartes aura. 6' ^{flapping over bay, then flew near Swan Pond, alternately flapping & gliding}
^{a hawk. H. Swan & son called 200 yds. He saw it 1st time distinctly. 2nd}
^{was in light over a minute. Flapping above 200 yds.}
30. Ardea herodias. 3' ^{marsh at mouth of Bass River} 5' ^{near head Bass River slightly in pines on hillside.}
31. " virescens. 2' 3' 5' Bass River & Swan Pond.
32. Nycticorax nycticorax. 2 h. 3' 4' 5' 3' Bass River, chiefly near mouth.
33. Botaurus lentiginosus. 3' ^{salt marsh mouth Bass River} 4' 2' ^{cat tail swamp near Bass River.}
34. Aegialitis viviparous. 2 h. 3' ^{(4) (5)} Salt marsh mouth Bass River.
35. Fringilla maculosa. 3' " " " "
36. Erismia viviparous with, probably, Fringilla minutella, identified by Ayler
+ call notes only 3' ^{(3) (6)} ^{(6) 12} " " " " "
37. Totanus melanotos. 3' " " " " "
38. " flavipes. 3' " " " " "
39. Rhyacophilus solitarius. 6' ⁽⁴⁾ shores of Swan Pond.
40. Actitis macularia. 6' ⁽³⁾ " " " " "

Brewster, Mass.

1903.

Sept. 4

Two Marsh Hawks in brown plumage and apparently
young birds which I watched for half an hour or more
this afternoon were engaged during a portion of this time
in beating back and forth, after their customary fashion,
over a narrow strip of marsh and cut-off by the
bordered a large fresh water brook. They also frequently
alighted, and even spent fully 15 minutes, on the ground
in a newly-made cranberry bog where they walked
about slowly and listlessly - but by no means
awkwardly - looking, while thus engaged, not unlike
two big domestic fowls. Through very grass, at
a distance of about one hundred yards, I
could see that they were constantly picking at
the cranberry vines and swallowing smallish objects
which they took from them with their bills.
I was unable to make out just what these
objects were. They may have been grasshoppers (which
were numerous there at the time) or some of the
insects which are at times of serious injury to
these vines but it is also not impossible that
they were cranberries.


Brewster
Observation of
two young
Marsh Hawks.

South Gannett, Mass.

1903

Sept. 6

Brilliantly clear with strong N. W. wind.

Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Stone and I, while walking, this afternoon, near the shore of Swan Pond, had a fine view of a Turkey Buzzard the first that I have ever seen alive in New England. It passed us at a distance of about 200 yards, flying in a north-westerly direction, at a height of thirty or forty feet, alternately flapping and gliding after the manner of its kind. We not only made out the characteristic ^W set of the wings  which at once distinguishes this Vulture from an Eagle or a Bald Eagle when sailing but we also saw its red head distinctly through our fished glasses. In short we identified the bird beyond any shadow of doubt. It remained in our sight rather more than a minute. During this period it passed first over a broad belt of pitch pine woods, just above the tops of the low trees, next over a large open field, and finally over another patch of woods beyond which it was lost to our view.

Turkey Buzzard

(C. aura)

Glendale, Mass.

1903.

Sept. 8-14

I spent this period with my friend David C. Fernald at Glendale, devoting most of my time to superintending the cutting of a considerable number of young pines to form a clearing in the woods on the better side of the road. The 9th & 10th were cloudy, all the other days clear. I paid little attention to birds & noted only the following species:-

1. Sialia sialis. 10⁽⁴⁾ 11^{hd}.
2. Morula migratoria. 9¹⁰ 10⁵ 11¹⁰
3. Turdus mustelinus. 9 ^{challenge note heard at cr.} 10 ds. 11 ds.
4. Parus atricapillus. - 10^{1/8} 11² 12²
5. Catherpes f. americana. - 10¹
6. Sitta carolinensis. - 12¹
7. " canadensis. - 12¹
8. Dendroica virens. 9¹ 10² 11^{1/2}. 12^{1/2} ^{full song heard many times about 9 a.m.}
9. Vireo olivaceus. - 9⁽³⁾
10. Ampelis cedrorum. - 9⁽²⁾ 10^{hd}. 11^{hd}. 12^{hd}.
11. Spinus tristis. - 10^{hd}. 11^{hd}. 12^{hd}.
12. Corvus americanus. - 9¹⁰ 11⁽²⁰⁾ 12⁽¹⁵⁾
13. Cyanocitta cristata. 9^{hd}. 10⁽⁶⁾ 11⁽⁵⁾ 12⁽⁶⁾
14. Colaptes auratus. - 11^{1/2} 12^{1/2}.
15. Dryobates villosus. - 9¹ 12¹
16. Chatura piligica. - 9⁽³⁾ 10⁽³⁾ 11⁽²⁾
17. Antrostomus vociferans. 10^{1/2} ^{intensity full song at evening} 11^{1/2} ds.
18. Trochilus colubris. - 10¹ ^{for first time} 14¹ ds.
19. Buteo lineatus. - 12^{1/2}.

Bethel, Maine.

1903.

Sept. 18-27

I spent this period as a guest under Dr. Gehring's roof. The weather was clear and for the most part rather warm.

I was out of doors most of the time but only once got beyond the boundaries of the Doctor's land where, in the woods below the house, we were all busily occupied in building a camp of gray birch logs. The following birds were noted:—

1. Scotia scotis 20^{hd.} 23^{hd.}
2. Merula migratoria. — 19' 20' 21² 22² 23' 24² 25' 26'
3. Turdus fallax. — 20^{hd.} 22' 25' 26'
4. Regulus satrapa. — 19^{hd.} 22^{hd.} 25^{hd.} 26^{hd.}
5. Parus atricapillus. — 19^{hd.} 21^{hd.} 22^{hd.} 23^{hd.} 24, 25, 26, 27⁽²⁾
6. Sitta carolinensis. — 20'
7. " canadensis. — 27'
8. Dendroica coronata. — 18^{hd.} 19^{hd.} 20⁽⁸⁾
9. " striata. — 23^{1/2} ^{full song heard 8 or 10 times} 7² ^{all}
10. Vireo olivaceus. — 20'
11. " solitarius. — 20^{1/2} ^(often overhead in evening) 23^{1/2} 25^{1/2}.
12. " gelvus. — 20^{1/2} (in evening)

Bethel, Maine.

1903.

Sept. 18-27

(No 2) 13. Spinus tristis. - 19^{het} 20^{het}.

14. " pinus. - 25^{het}

15. Spizella socialis. - 20' 23' 25'^② 27'^③

16. Junco hyemalis. - 19^{het} 22'^⑥ 26²

17. Zonotrichia albicollis. - 19² 26^{sur}.

18. Corvus americanus. - 18² 19⁶ 21² 24⁴ 23, 24, 25, 26 27.

19. Cyanocitta cristata. - 19^{het} 22'^③ 27^{het}

20. Anthus vociferus. - 20' ^{at daybreak} _{Geo. Townsend}

21. Dryotates villosus. - 18' 25'

22. Colaptes auratus. - 20'

23. Cephalus pilatus. - 26' ^{seen in Dr. G's woods by} _{Frank Hellenberger}.

24. Asio wilsonianus. - 18' ^{1 ad. shot in Glen Woods by Geo. Townsend} _{I captured the bird in the flock on Sept. 18.}

25. Accipiter velox. - 18² in Dr. G's orchard.

26. Bonasa u. longata. - 18'¹⁰ ^{skated by} _{Geo. Townsend} 19' 23' 25' 26' ^{drumming and}

27. Phalaropus minor. - 26' ^{skated from foot path in Dr. G's} _{woods at evening. Dr. G. found a well} ^{with eggs in this town over last} _{Spring}

Concord, Mass.

1903.

October +
November

I went to Concord this autumn on September 29th and remained there practically uninterruptedly - save for occasional days spent in Boston or Cambridge - up to November 13th, staying at the farm the entire time. Mr. C. H. Forsbush who had spent the summer at the cabin lived there through most of the autumn also although he usually joined me at the farm every morning. As usual I was out of doors at all times and in all weathers. My work lay chiefly on the Ritchie place but I usually found time at morning and evening for a walk in the woods near Pulpit Rock and Birch Field while I occasionally went to Holden's Hill, Ball's Hill or Birch Island. I saw very little of the river and its bordering marshes this season soon when I crossed them on my way to & from the New Bedford station. Mr. Forsbush, however, kept them under more or less close observation at morning and evening when he was always at or near Ball's Hill, and during Sundays when he usually spent most of the day prospecting the entire river front.

October was a beautiful month, clear & warm for the most part *Median*, although an exceptionally heavy north-easterly storm raged almost uninterruptedly from the 8th to the 13th while there was also a rather violent rain storm on the night of the 17 and a brisk storm on the 25th. The leaves fell unusually early although there were no severe frosts during the month.

The first five days of November were warm but the 6th was cold with snow falling all day & whitening the ground before night while the next morning it lay nearly two inches deep disappearing however by the 9th. The 8th was clear & cold, the ground freezing hard. After this the weather became warm again continuing so for several days, but on the 16th it turned suddenly cold & winter practically began on that date.

Concord, Mass.

1903.

October &
November
(No 2)

The autumnal migration was fully up to the average with respect to both variety of species and number of individuals. Black-pollled Warblers swarmed through September while the Yellow-rumps which replaced them in October were scarcely less numerous. There was also a good flight of White-throated Sparrows and a really heavy one of Juncos and Tree Sparrows while Fox Sparrows appeared in numbers greater than during any autumn since 1890. Of the less common migrants several House, Black-throated Blue, and Yellow Palm Warblers, two or three Winter Wrens, three Sapewings and a Connecticut Warbler were noted. I found the bird case named in the strip ^{of maple woods} at the eastern end of the Hitchin place on October.

The bulk of the Juncos, Tree Sparrows and Fox Sparrows passed early in November. A bed of wheat killed loaded with ripe seeds which I had left was the house attracted them in such numbers that for several days (November -) there were usually anywhere from fifty to one hundred birds feeding there whenever we visited the place. Of these by far the greater number were Tree Sparrows and Juncos it being unusual to see more than six or eight Fox Sparrows here or indeed, anywhere together, although they seemed to be scattered about everywhere through the woods in small flocks. All these species were heard in full song on several occasions. Bensen's Appenziger Oak was another place much favored by them & other species of migrating Sparrows, according to Mr. Forbush who passed it daily. He tells me that at one time it was much frequented by Swamp Sparrows & that he saw a few Swamp Sparrows there. On the only occasion when I visited it there were large numbers of Tree Sparrows & Juncos & several Fox & Song Sparrows.

Towson, Mass.

1903.

October &
November.
(No 3)

Along the river Mr. Furbush noted Fulmars at the usual season & in about the usual numbers, Song Sparrows, Swamp Sparrows, a few Rails, a Coot (Fulcan), only one or two Grebes, a number of Black Ducks, one Ruffle head, two Blue winged Teal & a few Mallards, Great Blue Herons were more numerous than usual. Night Herons were heard frequently at night. A large flock of Geese passed after dark on the evening of October and I saw a flock of eight passing just before noon on November.

Rusty Shrikes were present in somewhat greater force than usual. Through the greater part of October from then to five hundred (estimated) resorted nightly to a wood in the meadow nearly opposite the cabin at Balls Hill. Most of them would arrive a little before sunset coming from various directions in flocks varying from six or eight to thirty or forty birds and alighting in the tops of some bottom bushes and neighbouring maples where they kept up a loud clamor for awhile. Finally they would fly in detachments out into the meadow near the boat canal and drop into the long grass (there were no bushes there) where they invariably spent the night. Mr. Furbush ascertained very definitely that some of them remained in the bottom bushes and on several occasions he walked through the grass after it had become almost dark and flushed the greater part of the flock. Their numbers had decreased to about 200 by the end of the month when I fully expected that they would all depart as they have invariably done in former years. But this season they remained well into November. I saw fully 100 enter the wood on the evening of the 2nd and Furbush noted

As nearly as we could ascertain no Cowbirds nested with the Rusties this autumn but Furbush saw two or three Red-wings among them on several occasions.

Concord, Mass.

1903.

October
November
(no 4)

Extraordinary
migration of
Crows-Blackbirds

Crows-Blackbirds were seen migrating in large flocks on two occasions. On the first of these I counted flying towards the S.W. about 8 A.M. at a height of fully 1000 feet above the coast. The other flock was observed just before sunset on the evening of by Mr. Forbush and Howard Mc. Clair who were engaged at the time in shingling the roof of a shed at the Ritchie place. They both agreed that the birds, flying S.W. at a height of several hundred feet, formed a continuous line or belt extending N.W. and S.E. or at right angles with their course and stretching uninterceptedly as far as the eye could reach in both directions, or for a distance of at least two miles. Forbush said that he would not mistake a crow but that he had certainly never had so many birds of any kind in sight at once before; Mc. Clair that "there must have been tens of thousands."

The line although unbroken was not everywhere single for in many places there were double or thicker columns. Mr. Forbush did not fully identify ~~all~~ of these birds but he thinks that most of them were Crows-Blackbirds although a small bunch, which passed directly over him, lower down than the rest, was apparently ~~composed of~~ ^{or possibly} at least a few Rusties which he identified recognized by their notes. The birds composing the amazingly long line above flew steadily & evenly like Crows-Blackbirds, but they were too high for their boat loads to be distinguished. My own idea is that they must have been Crows-Blackbirds for I have never known Rusties to migrate in very large flocks. The annual fly-bits of Lucania annua, which we note every autumn at Concord, must come from farther for to the northward. As a rule the birds pass, as they did on the two occasions just mentioned, without stopping to rest or feed in our neighborhood. Our local birds must depart somewhat earlier in the season.

Concord, Mass.

1903.

October &
November
(no 5)

Migrating flocks of Crows were passing almost daily during the latter half of October and the first few days of November. As a rule the birds appeared in the early part of the forenoon in loose, straggling flocks containing anywhere from fifteen or twenty to one hundred and fifty members. There were often so scattered that not more than ten or a dozen would be in sight at once but on the other hand they formed a practically unbroken, narrow stream that flowed unceasingly for half an hour or more. The direction of their flight was invariably south-west. When the weather was calm they usually passed at a height of at least 100 or 200 feet but if there was a strong north wind they kept within forty or fifty feet of the earth and took advantage of the shelter afforded by any hill or fence or woods. As a rule they passed steadily downward with no alighting but on a few occasions as many as fifty to seventy birds were seen feeding together in the meadows near the river in the early morning as well as at other hours of the day.

The migration of Golden Plovers was also well marked although less heavy than usual. It passed about the time the maple leaves were falling when, for several days in succession, the woods seemed alive with the noisy brilliantly colored birds.

Bluebirds were exceedingly abundant but they departed early this year the country being completely cleared of them before the close of October. I saw no very large flocks but they were scattered about everywhere in small flocks which often contained a number of Yellow-rumped Warblers. When the Bluebirds rose high in air and moved off to the southwest as they often did at almost any hour of the day the Warblers frequently accompanied them.

Covead, Mass.

1903.

October +
November
(no 6)

The flight of Woodcock is reported to have been much heavier this autumn, throughout eastern Massachusetts, than it has been for many years. Thrice at evening, as twilight was deepening into night, I heard the whistle of a Woodcock's wings near the farm house. On two occasions the bird was evidently flying over the orchard below the house, on the third he was in the woods behind the Ritchie place. On October Mr. J. W. Long heard two Woodcock in Carlisle.

Judging by the amount of firing which we heard on the river meadows the flight of Wilson's Snipe was much lighter than usual although the grounds were in fair condition at least where the grass had been cut which was over only a limited extent of these meadows. I heard Snipe "scauping" on several occasions when I happened to be at Ball's Hill at evening but never more than one or two birds on any single occasion.

Partridges are reported to have been exceedingly scarce throughout Massachusetts this autumn & the gunners tell me that all killed by them have been old birds. Seven or eight which were frequently seen together in the woods behind the Ritchie place in August and September must have been members of one family but this is the only brood which we feel here was raised or very least the past summer. Benson reports seeing 13 Partridges building one evening in a wild apple tree on the farm but he is not always reliable in respect to such matters. Forbush has found the birds scarce the whole autumn & I have rarely seen more than two or three in one day. Most of them have been shot in Bartlett Run & the Pulpit Rock woods but Forbush has seen one frequently near the cabin at Ball's Hill & on one occasion I started two in the woods across the river. A bird has dreamed frequently by day & through our entire moonlight night on the wood at the foot of Bartlett Run. The ~~bird~~ at Ball's Hill has been heard only over this autumn.

Concord, Mass.

1903

October
November
(No. 7)

Gilbert & I were both suddenly awakened before daybreak on the morning of October 3rd by the plaintive voice of an Owl which was perched, we thought, in the tall slender elm that stands within thirty feet or less of the western end of the four house. At the time I was completely puzzled as to what particular species of Owl the bird might be but circumstantial evidence obtained later led me to think there must have been a Great Horned although it uttered notes undeniably different I have ever heard from that species before. First it would cry wah or wah-ho in tones so very loud and startling that the soundest sleeper must have been instantly awakened, as Gilbert and I were although all the windows of our rooms were tightly closed. Next it would hoot not so very unlike a Great Horned Owl but much more hurriedly and in softer, lower tones. Then would follow several repetitions of the wah or wah-ho or (usually) both to be succeeded by the hooting again. Sometimes the wah-ho would so closely precede the hooting as to be practically its beginning but usually the former notes were given separately. The wah-ho might be better characterized as a yell or shout than as a cry merely for it was almost deafening as we heard it on this occasion and the emphasis on the first syllable was something tremendous. A vigorous man shouting at the top of his lungs just outside our windows could not, I think, have possibly made so loud a noise. The sound, moreover, had a penetrating quality but it was not to any degree hoarse but rather, as I have said, a simple yell or shout. The single note wah appeared to be identical with the first syllable of the double note, wah-ho, or ah-ho as it might perhaps be rendered.

The hooting varied somewhat in form & number of syllables but was invariably hurried and soft - almost whispering tone. The variations which I noted on the spot were as follows: -

To - hoo - hoo - hoo, hoo - hoo - hoo, hoo, To - hoo - hoo - hoo - hoo, hoo.
To - hoo - hoo, hoo - hoo, hoo, To hoo - hoo, hoo - hoo. Hoo - hoo, hoo - hoo
Wah - ho, To - woo - hoo, woo - hoo, hoo. Wah - ho, Too - hoo, hoo - hoo.

A mysterious
Owl, probably
the Great Horned

Concord, Mass.

1903.

October &
November
(No 8)

It was 4.15 by my watch when, awakened by the unearthly outcry of this Owl, I jumped out of bed and lighted a candle. Its light did not seem to disturb him but when, shortly afterwards, I made a slight noise by opening one of the windows he became silent and continued so for several minutes. Excepting during this period and another somewhat longer one he yelled and hooted at short, irregular intervals until 4.35, after which I heard him no more that evening. I could detect no traces of dawn in the East when he ceased his clamor. The night was clear, mist and windless with no light save that given by the stars.

It did not occur to me when I was listening to this bird that he could possibly be a Great Horned Owl. A week or two later, however, as I was strolling at evening through Birch Field, I heard in the direction of Lawrence's farm a series of not identical hoots repeated a dozen times or more and on each occasion answered, or at least closely followed, by the typical hoot (hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo, hoo) of a Great Horned Owl - evidently another bird perched at no great distance from the first and in the same piece of woods.

Still later (on) I heard, also in the evening twilight and evidently in one of the large oaks below the barn, a bird which called eh or ah in nasal tones with a nasal rising inflection as it was asking a question. This note gradually changed to a broader one sounding like ah and resembling the wah heard on the morning of October 3. It was not, however, quite the same in tone nor anything like so loud and at all like

These observations considered together & in connection with the fact that a Great Horned Owl that I found with young in Lawrence's woods on May 5, 1903, hooted by day & in plain sight of me in a manner not unlike that of the bird heard on October 3, 1903 induce me to suspect that all the sounds above mentioned were made by Bubo virginianus.

Concord, Mass.

1903.

October 8

November

(No. 9)

On the evening of November 3rd another novel and exceedingly weird and startling sound was heard in the woods near the farm house, just after sunset by S. H. Forbush, about half-past seven o'clock by Gilbert and me. It was a loud, prolonged, gasping shriek beginning at about the middle of the musical scale and rising in pitch to the end. Forbush compared it not inaptly to a Siren whistle but it was less loud of course and somewhat more husky in tone. On the following evening, not long after sunset, I heard it again among some dense pines near the same place in Barrett Park. Hurrying towards the spot I was soon almost beneath the bird but I could not see it. After repeating its unearthly shriek five or six times it gradually changed the cry to the low, tremulous wail of a Screech Owl. The intergrading utterances were at least four or five in number and the transition from the shriek to the wail was so obvious as to convince me, as well as Forbush and Gilbert who were with me at the time, that the "Owl with the Siren Whistle", as we had dubbed the bird the evening before, was simply a Megascops asio with a novel and most interesting vocal accomplishment. After this I repeatedly heard it shrieking, as well as wailing, sometimes in the middle of the night in the elms close to the house. Once there as well as all the previous occasions I noticed that the bird never shrieked oftener than once every two or three minutes, a truly remarkable fact for when engaged in wailing, or giving the low, rolling call common to all the members of the race, it was, like all of them, rarely silent for more than five or six seconds at a time. I never interpreted either the wail or the rolling call between the shrieks nor did I ever hear it either one of these sounds on any one occasion save that of the evening of November 4th.

Novel cry of
a Screech Owl.

Concord, Mass.

1903.

October 9

November

No. 10;

There was a well-marked and by no means inconsiderable flight of Crossbills, Pine Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins during the latter half of October and the first half of November.

Red Crossbills appeared on October 15th and were very common during the next two weeks roving about the country after their usual winter fashion in flocks containing from six or eight to thirty or forty birds each. They seemed to be feeding chiefly in the white pines although I could not discover that these trees bore any but very old & open cones.

I saw the first Pine Grosbeaks, four in number, in Birch Field on October 27 (they were noted on the 26th in Waltham and on the 25th at Englewood, New Jersey). For a week or so after this they were so numerous and widely distributed that I saw or heard them almost hourly when out of doors no matter where I happened to be. They were exceedingly restless and most of the time on wing acting as if they were anxious about food and unable to discover a sufficient supply of it. They frequently alighted in Birch Field and the Barrett Run, however, finding in both places a major stock of red cedar berries on which they fed greedily and also eating the tender terminal buds of the white pines. I saw only one male in the full rose-red plumage and no flocks containing more than seven or eight birds each. Most of them ^{had} left my woods by Nov. 10th.

On November 1st and again on the 2nd I heard the dry chatter and musical peenk-peenk of White-winged Crossbills. On both occasions the bird or birds were evidently on wing but as I did not catch sight of them I am unable to say just how many there were.

Pine Siskins were similarly heard but not seen on November

On November 8 Mr. Tolbush saw a solitary Redpoll Linnet. It was on the ground feeding with Junco & Tree Sparrows. He got within 3 yards of it.

Invasion
of migratory
winter bird
visitors.

Red Crossbills

Pine Grosbeaks

White-winged
Crossbills.

Pine Siskins.

1903,

December.

1903

Bethel, Maine

December

Copied into
Syr. notesCopied
into Journal✓ Parus atricapillus 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th with 2 Phoebe
& 2 Red. Wings✓ Parus hudsonicus 14th 15th 16th 17th with 5 Phoebe
& 2 Red. Wings
fin. gray back✓ Regulus satrapa 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st
1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st
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1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st✓ Perisoreus canadensis✓ no Blue jays, no Nuthatches of either kind,
no Woodpeckers, no Hawks or Owls (but Hutton's
of Parus sp. evidently killed by a Hawk or Owl)



Jour
19
Jan. -